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For the convenience of Subscribers residing in remote places, the weekly numbers are reissued in Monthly Parts, stitched in a wrapper, and forwarded with the Magazines.—Subscriptions for the Stamped Edition for the Continent, for not less than Three Months, and in advance, are received by M. BAUDRY, 3, Quai Malaquais, Paris, or at the Publishing Office, 11, Wellington-street North, Strand, London. For France (JAMES HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT, CHANCERY LANE, and other Countries not requiring the postage to be paid in London, 28fr. or 12. 2s. the year. To other Countries, the postage is additional.

GEOLOGICAL MINERALOGY.—KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—Professor TENNANT, F.R.S. will commence a COURSE OF LECTURES ON MINERALOGY, with a view to facilitate the Study of Geology, and of the application of Mineral Substances in the Arts. The Lectures will be illustrated by an extensive Collection of Specimens, and will commence on WEDNESDAY MORNING, October 13, at 9 o'clock. They will be continued on each succeeding Wednesday at the same hour. R. W. JELF, D.D., Principal.

KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON.—NEW STUDENTS will be admitted into the following Departments on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1852:—

THE THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT, which provides a course of instruction, essentially practical in its nature, for those who propose to offer themselves as Candidates for Holy Orders, for those who wish to obtain a satisfactory examination after two years' study at King's College.

THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL LITERATURE AND SCIENCE, including Greek and Latin, Mathematics, English Literature and History, French and German, and adapted for students who wish to proceed to the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, &c.

THE DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED SCIENCES, which provides a course of instruction for those who are likely to be engaged in Civil Engineering, Architecture, and the higher branches of Manufacturing Art. Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Surveying, Geometrical Drawing, Mineralogy and Geology, Manufacturing Art and Machinery, are taught in this Department.

THE MILITARY DEPARTMENT—intended for the training of those who expect Commissions in the Army, or direct appointments in the Hon. East India Company's Service, and including Latin and Ancient History, Mathematics, English History and Geography, French and German, Drawing and Fortification.

Further particulars respecting any one of these Departments may be obtained from the King's College Calendar (to be obtained at the College, price 2s. 6d., or sent by post, 3s.); or by application to J. W. Cunningham, Esq., Secretary, King's College, London, Sept. 1852. R. W. JELF, D.D., Principal.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.—The FACULTY OF ARTS AND LAWS—Session 1852-53.—The SESSION will COMMENCE on THURSDAY, October 14, when the following COURSE OF LECTURES will be delivered:—**INTRODUCTORY LECTURE** at Three o'clock precisely.

CLASSES.
Latin—Professor Newman.
Greek—Professor Malden, A.M.
Hebrew—Professor Golding.
Hebrew—Teacher, the Rev. D. W. Marks.
English Language and Literature (vacant).
French Language and Literature—Professor Merlet.
Italian Language and Literature—Professor Galliani.
German Language and Literature—Professor Heilmann, Ph.D.
Comparative Grammar—Professor Key, A.M.
Mathematics—Professor De Morgan.
Natural Philosophy and Astronomy—Professor Potter, A.M.
Chemistry—Professor Graham.
Practical and Analytical Chemistry (commencing 1st October)—Professor A. W. Williamson, Ph.D.
Civil Engineering—Professor Harman Lewis, A.M.
Architecture—Professor Donaldson, M.I.R.A.
Mechanical Principles of Engineering—Professor Eaton Hodgkinson.
Machinery (vacant).
Drawing Teacher—Mr. Moore.
Geology (vacant).
Mineralogy—Professor Chapman.
Botany—Professor Lindley, F.R.S.
Zoology (Recent and Antient)—Professor Grant, M.D.
Philosophy of Mind and Logic—Professor the Rev. J. Hoppus, Ph.D.
Ancient and Modern History—Professor Creasy, A.M.
Law—Professor Russell, LL.B.
Jurisprudence—Professor Potter, M.A. LL.D.
Scholastic Classes—Professors Newman, Malden, De Morgan, and Potter.

RESIDENCE OF STUDENTS.—Several of the Professors receive students to reside with them, and in the Office of the College there is kept a register of parties who receive boarders into their families. The register will afford information as to terms and other particulars.

FOUR ANDREWS SCHOLARSHIPS, one of 70l., one of 50l., and two of 40l. each, will be awarded in October next to the four best students in Latin, Greek, Mathematics, and Natural Philosophy. Candidates must have been during the academical year immediately preceding Students in the College or Pupils in the School in October 1851 and subsequent years the Scholarships will be one of 70l. and two of 40l.

WILLIAMSON PRIZE FOR PRACTICAL CHEMISTRY.—A Prize of 50l. is offered by Alexander Williamson, Esq., for the most successful experimental research undertaken in the Birbeck Laboratory during the Session of 1852-53, and may be competed for by all students who attend the Annual Course of Instruction in the Laboratory. It will be awarded in August, 1853, at the end of the Session. Mr. Williamson has announced that he will probably offer similar prizes for the two following years.

Proposures and further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the College.

JOHN HOPPUS, Ph.D., Dean of the Faculty.

CHAS. C. ATKINSON, Secretary to the Council.

August, 1852.

The Session of the FACULTY OF MEDICINE commenced on the 1st of October.

The Junior School opened on the 21st of September.

UNIVERSITY HALL, GORDON-SQUARE, LONDON.—This Institution will RE-OPEN in OCTOBER, under the superintendence of the Principal Dr. WILLIAM R. CARPENTER, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c., for the residence of Students at University College, and the Academical Session. Information respecting the arrangements of the Hall, Terms of Residence, &c., may be obtained by application to the Principal, or to the Honorary Secretary, at the Hall.
August 23, 1852. D. DAIVISON, Hon. Sec.

OWENS COLLEGE, MANCHESTER.—

(In connexion with the University of London.)—Session 1852-3. The COLLEGE will OPEN for the SESSION 1852-3 on MONDAY, the 4th of October next, and the EXAMINATION previous to the admission of proposing Students will commence on that day, and be continued on following days, at Ten o'clock A.M. at the College. The Session will terminate in July, 1853.

Courses of instruction will be given in the following Departments:—

Comparative Grammar and English Language and Literature—Prof. A. Scott, A.M., Principal.

Logic, and Mental and Moral Philosophy—Prof. A. J. Scott, A.M.

Language and Literature of Greece and Rome—Prof. J. G. Greenwood, B.A.

Mathematics and Physics—Prof. Archibald Sandeman, A.M.

History—Prof. J. G. Greenwood, B.A.

Chemistry, and its Application to the Arts, &c.—Prof. Edward Frankland, Ph.D., F.R.S.

Chemistry, Analytical and Practical, with Manipulation in the Laboratory, which is fitted up with every requisite convenience for the prosecution of this department—Prof. Edward Frankland, Ph.D., F.R.S.

Natural History: The entire Course occupies two Sessions, the portion for the present Session including Zoology and Human and Comparative Anatomy and Physiology—Prof. W. C. Williamson, M.R.C.S.L.

French Language and Literature—Mr. Theodore.

German Language and Literature—Mr. Theodore.

Additional Lectures, on which the attendance of the Students is optional and without fee.

On the Hebrew of the Testament, by Prof. Scott.

On the Greek of the New Testament, by Prof. Greenwood.

On the Relations of Religion to Ethics, by Prof. Scott.

Further particulars may be obtained in a Prospectus, which may be had from Mr. MATTHEWS, at the College, Quay-street, Manchester, where application may be made to the Principal on every Wednesday prior to the 4th of October and on that day, and daily afterwards, between the hours of Ten and One.

BARLOW & ASTON, Solicitors to the Trustees.

Town Hall-buildings, Manchester.

September 3rd, 1852.

NEW COLLEGE.—The CLASSES for the

ensuing WINTER will meet, and the SESSION will be OPENED, upon TUESDAY, the 9th of November next, at 9 o'clock, P.M., when an Address will be delivered by

The Rev. JAMES BUCHANAN, D.D.

The Classes for the different Branches of Study will be opened as follows:—

Classes.—Days and Hours of Attendance. Professors.

Wednesday, November 10.

Divinity (Junior Class, 1 o'clock) Dr. Buchanan.

(Senior Class, 11 o'clock) Dr. Buchanan.

Divinity (Junior Class, 11 o'clock) Dr. Bannerman.

(Senior Class, 1 o'clock) Dr. Bannerman.

Divinity and Church History (Junior Class, 11 o'clock) Dr. Cunningham.

(Senior Class, 1 o'clock) Dr. Cunningham.

Hebrew & Oriental Languages (Junior Class, 10 o'clock) Dr. Duncan.

(Senior Class, 10 o'clock) Dr. Duncan.

Eccegetical Theology (Junior Class, 10 o'clock) Dr. Black.

(Senior Class, 10 o'clock) Dr. Black.

* Natural Science, with Ex- 3 o'clock (Professor Fleming, cursions Greenhill-gardens.

Logic and Meta- 1 o'clock (Professor Fraser, physics Examinations) 3 o'clock Greenhill-gardens.

According to these arrangements, the Curriculum for Students of Theology will stand thus:—

First Year's Students.

Attend Dr. Bannerman's Junior Class at Eleven.

Dr. Buchanan's Junior Class at Twelve.

Dr. Fleming's Class at Two.

Second Year's Students.

Attend Dr. Duncan's Senior Class at Ten.

Dr. Cunningham's Junior Class at Eleven.

Dr. Buchanan's Class at One.

Third Year's Students.

Attend Dr. Black's Junior Class at Ten.

Dr. Buchanan's Senior Class at Eleven.

Dr. Cunningham's Senior Class at One.

Fourth Year's Students.

Attend Dr. Black's Senior Class at Twelve.

Dr. Bannerman's Senior Class at One.

The Rev. Theo. Meyer will open a Class for Hebrew at Nine o'clock.

MATRICULATION.—Students of Theology, before entering with the Professors, must matriculate in the Library, and pay the common fee to the Secretary of the College.

Admission to the Classes of the New College is not limited to Students qualifying for the Ministry, or connected with the Free Church of Scotland.

* **NATURAL SCIENCE.**—This Class is now recognised as equivalent to any of the Classes of Natural History in the Universities of Scotland, by the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, and by the Army and Navy Medical Boards. There is attached to it a Class Library, containing upwards of 350 volumes on Natural Science, the valuable gift of a lady.

New College, Edinburgh.

3rd September 1852.

SUBURBAN ARTISAN SCHOOLS.—The

SESSION COMMENCED at the NORTH LONDON SCHOOL, Mary's terrace, Camden Town, on September 15.

Classes for Drawing the Figure and other Natural Objects, and all kinds of Ornament, and for Modelling, meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings, from 5 to 10 p.m.—F. M. BACON & CO. ESQ., Masters.

A Class for Geometry, Architecture, Construction, Perspective, and Architectural Botany, meets on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Evenings, from 5 to 10 p.m.—J. K. COLLIER, Esq., Master.

A Female Class meets on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Evenings, from 6 till 8 p.m., under the direction of C. LUCY, Esq.

Admission to all Classes, 2s. per month.

Sept. 30, 1852. J. NEVILLE WARREN, Hon. Sec.

GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF MINES, and of

SCIENCE APPLIED TO THE ARTS.

MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY.

The SESSION of this SCHOOL, will be opened on WEDNESDAY, the 3rd of November, with a LECTURE by Dr. LYON PLAYFAIR. The following Courses of Lectures will be given:—

1. CHEMISTRY, applied to Arts and Agriculture—Lyon Playfair, M.D., F.R.S.

2. NATURAL HISTORY, applied to Geology and the Arts—Edward Forbes, F.R.S.

3. MECHANICAL SCIENCE, with its Applications to Mining—Robert Hunt, Keeper of Mining Records.

4. METALLURGY, with its Special Applications—John Percy, M.D., F.R.S.

5. GEOLOGY, and its Practical Applications—A. C. Ramsay, F.R.S.

6. MINING and MINERALOGY—Warrington W. Smyth, M.A., F.R.S.

The Fee for Matriculated Students for the Course of two years is one payment of 30l. or two annual payments of 25l. This fee includes practical instruction in the field.

The Fees for the Laboratories are 15l. for the Session of five months.

One of the "DUKE OF CORNWALL'S EXHIBITIONS," of 30l. per annum, to be held for two years, granted by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, will be completed for at the end of the Session.

Acting Mining Agents & Managers may attend the Lectures at half the usual charges. The same rule is applied to Officers in the Queen's or the Hon. E. I. Company's Service. Tickets for separate Courses are issued.

For further information apply to Mr. TREHARN REEKS, Curator, at the Museum, Jermyn-street, London.

H. T. DE LA BECHE, Director.

THE LADIES' COLLEGE, 47, BEDFORD-SQUARE.—The SESSION 1852-53 will COMMENCE on WEDNESDAY, the 4th of October, when an INTRODUCTORY LECTURE will be delivered by Professor FINDLATER at Two o'clock. The CLASSES will meet on the 7th.

Biblical Literature—Rev. J. Baines, M.A., St. John's College, Oxford.

Moral Philosophy—Alexander Bain, Esq. A.M., formerly Lecturer on Moral Philosophy in Marischal College, Aberdeen.

Ancient History—Rev. W. Browning Smith, M.A., St. John's College, Cambridge.

Modern History—J. Langton Sanford, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn.

Mathematics—Rev. William Cook, M.A., Trinity College, Cambridge.

Natural History—R. E. Grant, M.D., Professor of Comparative Anatomy in University College, London.

Natural Philosophy—Rev. William Cook, M.A.

Chemistry—Edward Solly, Esq. F.R.S. F.S.A. F.G.S., Professor of Chemistry to the Horticultural Society, and Lecturer on Chemistry at Addiscombe College.

Physical and Political Geography—Alexander Bain, Esq. M.A.

Latin with English Grammar—Rev. J. Baines, M.A.

English Language and Literature—Andrew Findlater, Esq. A.M., formerly Head Master of Gordon's Hospital, Aberdeen.

German Language and Literature—Adolph Heilmann, Ph.D., Professor of German in University College, London.

French Language and Literature—M. Adolphe Egan.

Italian Language and Literature—Signor Valetta.

Elocution—J. Wigan, Esq.

Music—Professor Hullah, of King's College, London.

Harmony—Wm. Sterndale Bennett, Esq.

Drawing—F. S. Carr, Esq.

The Prospectus, containing a List of the Lady Visitors, Programme of Lectures, Directions for a Course of Study, the Time Table, and other particulars, may be had at the College, 47, Bedford-square, daily between ten and four.

BRIGHTON COLLEGE.—New Students will

BE ADMITTED into the Classical and General Departments of this College, on and after FRIDAY, October 1. The Quarter's Course of Practical Instructions in Chemistry commences on SATURDAY, October 2. The Classes for Surveying and Military Drawing, on Monday, October 4.

H. COTTERILL, M.A. Principal.

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CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.—Mr. H. MEDLOCK,

late Senior Assistant in the Royal College of Chemistry, having fitted up a large commodious LABORATORY, is now prepared to undertake Analysis of Solids & Minerals, Urns, Manures, Waters, &c., and to conduct Assays of all kinds. A limited number of Pupils are received and instructed in all branches of Chemical Science, especially in relation to Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce.

For the convenience of Gentlemen engaged during the day, an Evening Class, which will meet from six till nine on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Evenings, is now in course of formation.

Mr. Medlock may be consulted on Chemical Subjects daily (except on Saturdays), from Ten till Five.

Free of Charge, and full particulars regarding the Fees for Analysis, Pupils, and Consultations, may be obtained on application to the Laboratory, 30, Great Marlborough-street, Regent-street, London.

HOPE & CO'S LIST FOR OCTOBER. In drawing attention to their List of New Works, for the present month, the Publishers beg to intimate that they first publish, and, in the very first style, greatly under the usual charge, while their Publishing arrangements enable them to promote the interests of all Works entrusted to their care. Authors forwarding their Manuscripts, or accurately describing the same, will have estimates of expenses furnished gratuitously, with specimens of the size, page and type that should be adopted, and other requisite information.

A HISTORY OF THE HOLY MILITARY SOVEREIGN ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, Knights Templars, Knights of Rhodes, and Knights of Malta. By Commander TAAPEE, Knight Commander of the Order. In Four Volumes. Vols. I. and II. just published, price 12s. 6d. each. Each Volume contains 100 plates.

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"The first volume, now before us, proceeds no farther than the settlement of Rollo; but then, the reader gets a good deal more than the story of the Normans. The work opens with two essays or disquisitions connected with what the author calls 'the Fourth Monarchy,' the prophet Daniel's meaning Rome. The first essay is intended to prove that Rome was never conquered by the barbarians, but that they were politically and intellectually subdued by Rome, and that modern Europe is indebted to the Empire not merely for much, but for all. The second disquisition is a very valuable account on language, and especially on the Latin, its disease, and the growth of modern tongues. This is followed by a chapter on the scope and object of the entire history, with the reasons why the work embraces many seemingly remote or introductory topics. The narrative proper then commences, with a notice of the empire and character of Charlemagne, and an account of the Carolingian pedigree. This is followed by a history of Charlemagne's descendants, and the irruptions of the Normans, till the final extinction of the Carolingian dynasty, and the establishment of Rollo and his Normans in Normandy."—*Spectator.*

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Edited by GEORGE ELWES CORRIE, D.D., Master of Jesus College, and Rector of St. Dunstons, Cambridge. 8vo. 10s. 6d.

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"So little is known of the personal history of Gallus, that his life has been chosen by Beck for the subject of a series of pages for notes and excursus in which all that concerned the Roman life of the period might be added in detail. The plan is ingenious, and the work, according to the general testimony of scholars, admirably executed. The story is for the purpose intended well contrived, and is interesting and elegantly composed. The notes appendage of historical value and stimulate philosophical reflection. We have here gathered into a small compass much that concerns not only the matrimonial relations of Roman life, but the state and character of the Roman family—the arrangement of the domestic life—the economy of the slave family—the

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REVIEWS

Shakespeare's Puck, and his Folklore, illustrated from the Superstitions of all Nations, but more especially from the Earliest Religion and Rites of Northern Europe and the Wends. By William Bell, Phil. Dr. Printed for the Author.

ALL who can speak or read English have an interest in whatever relates to the origin and history of a mythological being who, though he cannot be said to have been created by Shakespeare, has been adorned by him with peculiar and poetical graces. The great dramatist has given to Puck no absolutely new features; but by the exercise of a powerful imagination he has communicated to the ancient characteristics a beauty of appearance and a richness of colouring which compel us to look on the Puck of the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' almost as an original invention. In this respect he cannot, perhaps, take rank with Ariel or with Caliban; but after the appearance of the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' there existed in the world of fancy a personage so superior to the Puck of the anterior time, that it is not without some difficulty that the identity of the two is established. Although the foundation of 'The Tempest' has not yet been discovered, we feel little doubt that it will some day be brought to light; and as little do we doubt that when this original shall have been stumbled on, it will be found to contain some germ, some hint, or some sketch of the preternatural agents employed by Shakespeare. Ariel and Caliban had probably rude prototypes:—were made out of some rough materials on which the mind of the poet worked, and out of which it, in the end, produced those wonderfully contrasted and highly-wrought creations,—so entirely out of the sphere of nature, yet by the combined operation of skill and of genius rendered so consistent with nature, that they excite our interest and our sympathies as if subject to all the influences that affect mortality.

In the case of Puck, as we have suggested, we are acquainted with some of the sources to which Shakespeare resorted for materials which in his hands took the forms of new creations. Puck had existed for ages in popular tradition and belief,—as the author of the volume in our hands abundantly, and superabundantly, proves:—and many years before Shakespeare wrote his 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' a tract on the "mad pranks and merry jests" of Robin Goodfellow had been published. The first edition of this tract does not seem to be extant; but it has been shown to have been in existence at least as early as 1588,—and in it we find all that was then known of the habits and peculiarities attributed to Puck. No one who reads it can doubt that Shakespeare had it in his mind, if not in his hand, while he was writing; and all lovers of Shakespeare are aware that it was part of our wonderful, but not less judicious, poet's system to attract and fix the attention of audiences by connecting his own inventions with matters which had already taken firm hold of the popular mind. He thus fortified himself in the farther claims which he made on the imagination of the people:—and so far did he carry this exercise of a wise discretion, that whereas the spectators of the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' had been accustomed to see Puck represented in woodcuts with a broom on his shoulder, he took care that the reference should be complete by so representing him on the stage:—

I am sent with broom before
To sweep the dust behind the door.

Hence the value of the representation of Puck,

armed with his broom, on the title-page of the old tract devoted to his "mad pranks and merry jests." It is a piece of the theatrical costume in illustration of one of the most graceful and fascinating dramas in existence. It seems astonishing that it should never have struck any of the older or more modern editors of Shakespeare in this light,—since it is really more valuable than volumes of verbal disquisition. Shakespeare could not mention "the bilboes," a "three-man beetle," or a "bay horse," without our having the illustration of a wood-cut; yet when the commentators are aware that a small work exists with a representation on the title-page of the very manner in which Puck must have been dressed and caparisoned when the 'Midsummer Night's Dream' was first acted, they pass it over in complete silence. Amongst the important services rendered, and to be rendered, by the Shakespeare Society to our old drama, we are glad to learn that they are preparing a volume on early theatrical apparel,—especially for the plays of Shakespeare; and the woodcut to which we refer must not be overlooked as offering a curious and valuable addition to such an undertaking.

Of this woodcut there is a bad copy in the volume the title of which heads this article:—and it appears to us, that while Dr. Bell attaches a vast deal too much importance to matters utterly extraneous, and which, in a most Will-o'-the-wisp manner, carry him—like so many others—out of his way,—he fails to do justice to information which is readily within reach. We do not recollect that he even mentions the remarkable early ballad which was written on the same subject as the prose tract regarding the history of Robin Goodfellow,—and which, containing more than one repetition of the engraving of the hero, proves its great popularity about the time when Shakespeare's play was in course of performance. While Dr. Bell amuses himself with learned dissertations on bog and bock, on pad, frog, poke, and with all sorts of fanciful etymologies,—we must own that he has not succeeded in conveying distinctly to our mind such ideas as he may entertain respecting the origin and history of the subject of his volume. He wanders through time and space, and quotes or refers to an immense number of volumes, some of good authority, and some of none;—and wherever he can light on a scrap of information, no matter how remote its bearing on his purpose, he appropriates it, with scarcely any apparent regard to the fitness of the place which he makes it occupy.—We freely admit, that much knowledge of ancient mythologies and superstitions, especially of those of the north of Europe, is displayed in his work; but the whole is so jumbled and confused, so ill arranged and so speculative, so full of meanderings in every direction, and so little directly to the point in hand, that his three or four hundred pages are almost as much an illustration of anything else, as they are of the Puck of Shakespeare.

We make an extract from a part of Dr. Bell's book wherein he is more coherent in his reasoning, as well as more consecutive in his information.—

"The first notice of a Puck which I find in the English language is the metrical romance of 'Cœur de Lion,' Ellis, Met. Rom., by Halliwell, p. 291. Sir Fulk, unable to reconcile the strength and bravery of the white knight with such strange conduct, firmly believed him to be some preternatural personage.—

'Y-wis, Sire King,' quoth Sir Fulk,
'I woen that Knight was a Pouk.'

Ellis, in his Introduction, speaking of it as a translation from the French, says, *ibid.* p. 282, 'Indeed, there are strong reasons for believing that the first French original, and even the earliest English version, contained an authentic history of Richard's

reign, compiled from contemporary documents; although that history was afterwards enlarged and disfigured by numerous and most absurd interpolations.' But such interpolations could have been the gradual work of time, and argue a high antiquity, perhaps contemporary with the lion-hearted sovereign. In the 'Vision of Piers Plowman' we have the second mention of the word, when in this poem the Seer beholds Abraham, the personification, with his

Wyde clothes, within which lay a Lazar,
Wyth patriarkes and prophetes playing to gedres;

and asks him what was there:—

Loo, quath he, and leet me see lord mercy ich seide
Hilt is precious present, quath he, ac the pouke hit hath
attachee
And me ther wyth, quath he wye, may no wed ous quite,
Ne no berne be our boghe, ne bring ous out of daunger
Fro the pouke pondfoide, ne maynpryse may ous fetche,
Till he come that ich carpe of, Christ is his name,
That shall delvery ous some day oute of the devels
powere.

Golding, in his translation of Ovid, unequivocally uses the word pouke for the devil:—

The country where Chimæra, that same pouke
With goatish body, lion's head and breast, and dragon's
tail.

But in the following allusion of Spenser, the approximation to Shakespeare's noisy, mischievous, but cheerful Puck, is nearer.—

Ne let housefens nor lightnings helpeles harms;
Ne let the pouke, nor other evil sprites,
Ne let mischievous witches with their charms;
Ne let hob-goblins, names whose sense we see not,
Fray us with things that be not.
Epithalamion.

We have also mention in another passage of the same writer, from 'The Scourge of Venus'—

And that they may perceive the Heaven's frown,
The powkes and goblins pull the coverings down.
Scourge of Venus.

Though I cannot perceive the strong distinction seen here by Keightley; on the contrary, the conjunction is copulative. It is plain, however, that none of these authors here adduced, and, therefore, most probably English Folk-lore generally, had but very imperfect and immature ideas on the nature, attributes, and action of our favourite sprite, till Shakespeare created the wondrous birth; and so excellent was the formation, so beautiful and various the play of colour and refraction, that his contemporaries and successors seized the new fairy world he had produced, to revel in with almost equal powers of invention and fancy. It will be for future inquiry, if our immortal bard received a fillip to his fancy from foreign aid, until his time unknown and unheeded by his countrymen.

What the author means by speaking of 'The Scourge of Venus' as a poem by Spenser, we do not understand. It was published early in the seventeenth century, as the work of "a well-deserving author"; and if that author can be shown to be Spenser, and it can be established that he left it behind him at his death, in the end of the sixteenth century, it will be a very interesting piece of literary information:—which, however, we do not expect to receive.

We have mentioned the number of productions of all ages and qualities referred to and quoted by Dr. Bell in the volume before us; and we think it most likely that he derived his acquaintance with 'The Scourge of Venus' from some previous and lax author who has misled him. He is frequently by no means precise himself,—and when precise, he is often in error. For instance, at p. 81 we find a passage from Heywood's 'Hierarchie of the Blessed Angels,' with the distinct reference, "fol. Lond. 1635, p. 514"; yet when the author comes at p. 218—needlessly, as it seems to us—to repeat the quotation, he speaks of it as found "at 272 of the 'Hierarchie' of Heywood."—As a specimen of the loose manner in which Dr. Bell often talks and reasons, we subjoin a brief passage which promises something in explanation of Milton's "lubber fiend," but in fact performs nothing:—the author, in his usual eccentric

manner, wandering off into some other part of his subject. He is speaking of the various denominations of Puck.—

"The only one requiring or permitting elucidation, is Milton's *Lubber Fiend*, as the name stands isolated, and without any illustrative associations. *Lubber* seems rather its derivative than its root; and there are curious assonances in Platt Deutsch, as *Lopen*, to run, which would approximate more to the Will-o'-the-Wisp than to Jonson's 'idle, fat bulky losel'; and *Lob*, in high German, is praise; but neither suits exactly: *Lobe* (from Gr. *Λοβος*), with *Globe*, in the form of prominences, seem nearer, and would be borne out, in part, by a curious custom which formerly prevailed at Halberstadt, where was a large flat granite altar in the cathedral-close before the west door. Grimm (*D. S.* p. 276) calls it the *Lugen Stein*; more probably *Luggenstein*, as in English the *Lug* is also the lobe of the ear, and *Lug-gage* a man's personal bulky effects. On it every Whit-Sunday another stone was placed, which the canons of the cathedral severally attacked and beat till it was thrown off the *Lubben-stone*, and which was generally supposed to typify symbolically the triumph of Christianity over the indigenous deity, this *Lubbe*, or *Lob*; for that such a one existed anciently in that immediate vicinity, an undoubted and very large Druidical circle, still intact, in the neighbourhood, the *Lubben-stone* near Helmstadt, sufficiently proves. It was described by Conringius, the famous rector of the Helmstadt University, and a poor print may be found of it in Eccard, '*De Origine Germanorum*.'"

Now, what can *lopen*, to run, or *lob*, which in High German means praise, have to do with Milton's "lubber fiend"? Well may the author say, that "neither suits exactly"; and if so, why are they here introduced? Again, what possible illustration is afforded by what Grimm calls the *Lugen Stein*, and Dr. Bell *Luggenstein*, and subsequently *Lubben-stone*? How is it proved also that there was such an "indigenous deity" as *Lubbe* or *Lob*, because there was "a Druidical circle, still intact, in the neighbourhood"? Without doubting the Druidical circle, we may still doubt the indigenous deity.—It is very much of such matters as these—the *gratis dicta* of an unquestionably learned and laborious man—that the volume before us is composed. The most incongruous materials are often thus huddled together: a dissertation on the Man in the Moon is gravely connected with the River Styx, because the man is supposed to carry a bundle of faggots on his back. "It is not, therefore, surprising," says our author, "that we find in the name of the northern *Ber-ticks*, the bundle of thorns or *sticks*, and in this again a verbal agreement with the most potent divinity of ancient Italy, *Stygus*, or *Styx*."

This volume, it seems, is one out of several designed by the author;—and on the plan (so to call it) pursued in the first, there is no reason why the line should not stretch out interminably. Parts of the book are certainly agreeable reading,—and even the writer's main defect of excursive-ness sometimes renders him amusing. He has been long resident in Germany,—and he has caught his tone and treatment very much from the ingenious and industrious scholars of that part of the Continent. There is no speculation too refined, no analogy too subtle and remote, for the employment of their time and talents:—and in much that Dr. Bell advances on the same system to establish the intimate connexion between the Northern mythology and some of the popular superstitions of these islands, we concur. If he had digested his matter more, and assorted it better, omitting some disquisitions altogether, unconnected as they are, or only connected in the author's fancy,—his work would have been not only readable, but instructive. At times when we were most disposed to ridicule his positions, his learning stepped forward to his aid,—and if it did not

secure for him all our patience, at all events it commanded much of our respect.

Three Years in Europe; or, Places I have Seen and People I have Met. By W. W. Brown, a Fugitive Slave. Gilpin.

Uncle Tom in England, a Proof that Black's White: an Echo to the American 'Uncle Tom.' Bennett.

ONE of the penalties which success pays to the world is the inevitable imitation to which it gives birth. A Waverley cannot make his adventures known but you have a host of historical novels on the library table,—a Childe Harold cannot make his solemn pilgrimage without a hundred imitations and continuations springing up. In like manner a success such as Mrs. Stowe's '*Uncle Tom's Cabin*' has achieved was pretty certain to be followed by so-called "echoes," "sequels," and variations.

We can hardly conceive of a form of authorship less flattering to its object than an admiration which takes such a shape as '*Uncle Tom in England*.' The latter work is called an "echo" of the original,—but the echo here given is of the faintest. The volume, pitch, and quality of the original voice are all lost,—and nothing remains but a travestie of names and characters. The writer indulges himself in very grand phrases—his Negroes talk the dialect of Wapping—and his ignorance of America and of the institution assailed is of a kind to startle an ordinary reader. One instance of this will suffice to show that we speak by the card: he carries his slaver with a cargo from Africa into the harbour of Charles-town,—unaware that the importation of Negroes into the United States has long been prohibited by statute. The writer boasts that the whole book was written by him in seven days and nights. If this be a merit, it takes the place of all others. We should rather he had taken more time—and done better. Why should he have been

—sleepless himself
To make his readers sleep?

He speaks of its having been "an arduous and laborious task" to write this volume:—what should he say who is compelled to read it?

The other work named above is a bit of genuine writing. The "fugitive slave," Mr. W. W. Brown, was a coloured person much seen about London in the year of the Great Exhibition,—and heard of in Paris at the Peace Congress,—and we have in these pages the record of his sayings and doings in France and in England. A narrative of his life and sufferings as a slave has been already published; so that we need only extract a characteristic passage or two in order to recommend this volume of letters to such friends of the African in this country as may like their flavour. There are a simplicity and an ingenuousness in these confessions which make us merry and sad by turns:—as, for example, in the following anecdote.—

"On the passage from America, there were in the same steamer with me, several Americans, and among these, three or four appeared to be much annoyed at the fact that I was a passenger, and enjoying the company of white persons; and although I was not openly insulted, I very often heard the remark, that 'That nigger had better be on his master's farm,' and 'What could the American Peace Society be thinking about to send a black man as a delegate to Paris.' Well, at the close of the first sitting of the Convention, and just as I was leaving Victor Hugo, to whom I had been introduced by an M.P., I observed near me a gentleman with his hat in hand, whom I recognized as one of the passengers who had crossed the Atlantic with me in the Canada, and who appeared to be the most horrified at having a negro for a fellow passenger. This gentleman, as I left M. Hugo, stepped up to me and said, 'How do you do,

Mr. Brown?'—'You have the advantage of me,' said I.—'Oh, don't you know me; I was a fellow passenger with you from America; I wish you would give me an introduction to Victor Hugo and Mr. Cobden.' I need not inform you that I declined introducing this pro-slavery American to these distinguished men. I only allude to this, to show what a change comes over the dreams of my white American brother, by crossing the ocean. The man who would not have been seen walking with me in the streets of New York, and who would not have shaken hands with me with a pair of tongs while on the passage from the United States, could come with hat in hand in Paris, and say, 'I was your fellow passenger.'"

It cannot be said that the chivalries were well maintained on this occasion, or even that true policy was observed. Indeed, throughout the book, Mr. Brown scarcely makes so heroic a figure as the injudicious flatterers of the black man would have him believe. He is evidently very ill informed; and pronounces judgment on men and things of which he knows very little with the forwardness of a school-boy. But when he writes on the wrongs of his race or the events of his own career he is always interesting or amusing. The ensuing sketch is thoroughly American.—The author is on a visit to the Bank of England, when the sight of so much money recalled an incident, which he thus relates.—

"In the autumn of 1835, having been cheated out of the previous summer's earnings, by the captain of the steamer in which I had been employed running away with the money, I was, like the rest of the men, left without any means of support during the winter, and therefore had to seek employment in the neighbouring towns. I went to the town of Monroe, in the state of Michigan, and while going through the principal streets looking for work, I passed the door of the only barber in the town, whose shop appeared to be filled with persons waiting to be shaved. As there was but one man at work, and as I had, while employed in the steamer, occasionally shaved a gentleman who could not perform that office himself, it occurred to me that I might get employment here as a journeyman barber. I therefore made immediate application for work, but the barber told me he did not need a hand. But I was not to be put off so easily, and after making several offers to work cheap, I frankly told him, that if he would not employ me, I would get a room near to him, and set up an opposition establishment. This threat, however, made no impression on the barber; and as I was leaving, one of the men who were waiting to be shaved said, 'If you want a room in which to commence business, I have one on the opposite side of the street.' This man followed me out; we went over, and I looked at the room. He strongly urged me to set up, at the same time promising to give me his influence. I took the room, purchased an old table, two chairs, got a pole with a red stripe painted around it, and the next day opened, with a sign over the door, 'Fashionable Hair-dresser from New York, Emperor of the West.' I need not add that my enterprise was very annoying to the 'shop over the way,'—especially my sign, which happened to be the most expensive part of the concern. Of course, I had to tell all who came in that my neighbour on the opposite side did not keep clean towels, that his razors were dull, and, above all, he had never been to New York to see the fashions. Neither had I. In a few weeks I had the entire business of the town, to the great discomfiture of the other barber. At this time, money matters in the Western States were in a sad condition. Any person who could raise a small amount of money was permitted to establish a bank, and allowed to issue notes for four times the sum raised. This being the case, many persons borrowed money merely long enough to exhibit to the bank inspectors, and the borrowed money was returned, and the bank left without a dollar in its vaults, if, indeed, it had a vault about its premises. The result was, that banks were started all over the Western States, and the country flooded with worthless paper. These were known as the 'Wild Cat Banks.' Silver coin being very scarce, and the banks not being allowed to issue notes for a smaller amount than one dollar, several persons put out notes from 6 to 75 cents in value; these were

called 'Shinplasters.' The Shinplaster was in the shape of a promissory note, made payable on demand. I have often seen persons with large rolls of these bills, the whole not amounting to more than five dollars. Some weeks after I had commenced business on my 'own hook,' I was one evening very much crowded with customers; and while they were talking over the events of the day, one of them said to me, 'Emperor, you seem to be doing a thriving business. You should do as other business men, issue your Shinplasters.' This, of course, as it was intended, created a laugh; but with me it was no laughing matter, for from that moment I began to think seriously of becoming a banker. I accordingly went a few days after to a printer, and he, wishing to get the job of printing, urged me to put out my notes, and showed me some specimens of engravings that he had just received from Detroit. My head being already filled with the idea of a bank, I needed but little persuasion to set the thing finally afloat. Before I left the printer the notes were partly in type, and I studying how I should keep the public from counterfeiting them. The next day my Shinplasters were handed to me, the whole amount being twenty dollars, and after being duly signed were ready for circulation. At first my notes did not take well; they were too new, and viewed with a suspicious eye. But through the assistance of my customers, and a good deal of exertion on my own part, my bills were soon in circulation; and nearly all the money received in return for my notes was spent in fitting up and decorating my shop. Few bankers get through this world without their difficulties, and I was not to be an exception. A short time after my money had been out, a party of young men, either wishing to pull down my vanity, or to try the soundness of my bank, determined to give it a run. After collecting together a number of my bills, they came one at a time to demand other money for them, and I, not being aware of what was going on, was taken by surprise. One day as I was sitting at my table, strapping some new razors I had just got with the avails of my 'Shinplasters,' one of the men entered and said, 'Emperor, you will oblige me if you will give me some other money for these notes of yours.' I immediately cashed the notes with the most worthless of the Wild Cat money that I had on hand, but which was a lawful tender. The young man had scarcely left when a second appeared with a similar amount, and demanded payment. These were cashed, and soon a third came with his roll of notes. I paid these with an air of triumph, although I had but half a dollar left. I began now to think seriously what I should do, or how to act, provided another demand should be made. While I was thus engaged in thought, I saw the fourth man crossing the street, with a handful of notes, evidently my 'Shinplasters.' I instantaneously shut the door, and looking out of the window, said, 'I have closed business for the day: come to-morrow, and I will see you.' In looking across the street, I saw my rival standing in his shop door, grinning and clapping his hands at my apparent downfall. I was completely 'done Brown' for the day. However, I was not to be 'used up' in this way; so I escaped by the back door, and went in search of my friend who had first suggested to me the idea of issuing notes. I found him, told him of the difficulty I was in, and wished him to point out a way by which I might extricate myself. He laughed heartily, and then said, 'You must act as all bankers do in this part of the country.' I inquired how they did, and he said, 'When your notes are brought to you, you must redeem them, and then send them out and get other money for them; and, with the latter, you can keep cashing your own Shinplasters.' This was indeed a new job to me. I immediately commenced putting in circulation the notes which I had just redeemed, and my efforts were crowned with so much success, that before I slept that night my 'Shinplasters' were again in circulation, and my bank once more on a sound basis. As I saw the clerks shovelling out the yellow coin upon the counters of the Bank of England, and men coming in and going out with weighty bags of the precious metal in their hands, or on their shoulders, I could not but think of the great contrast between the monster Institution within whose walls I was then standing, and the Wild Cat Banks of America!"

Some of the latter chapters of this volume

treat of the slavery question in formal fashion—and these chapters, as coming from one who was "to the manner born," will no doubt be read with interest by many in whose hearts Mrs. Stowe's narrative has stirred up a friendly zeal.

Correspondence of the Architect and Officers of the British Museum with the Trustees, and of the Trustees with the Treasury.

[Second Notice.]

CONSCIOUS of the serious defects in the existing arrangements of the British Museum—pointed out by us last week,—the Trustees have proposed two several plans for their temporary removal. One of these plans may be described as that of the Trustees themselves. It is a miscellaneous affair,—and is based on estimates and considerations which affect, more or less, the entire institution. The second plan is claimed by Mr. Panizzi,—and it has reference solely to the wants and interests of the Library.

During the late sitting of Parliament, as we have already said, both these plans were rejected at Whitehall. But it was understood that this rejection was, as the lawyers say, "without prejudice":—in other words, it was founded, not on the question of merits, but on that of money. Our Chancellor of the Exchequer had publicly promised to do something for the National Gallery,—and he is perhaps desirous of dealing with both institutions in one and the same session. It is not to be imagined that the son of a writer whose "best years" and "happiest hours" were passed in the national library can be indifferent to its interests;—but he has to humour a House of Commons strongly possessed with economical doctrines,—and it has perhaps occurred to him that the safest and cheapest mode of dealing with these great institutions is, to regard them as so many parts of one large scheme. Be this, however, as it may, the plans submitted by the Trustees of the British Museum to the Treasury must be held to be postponed rather than set aside; and if brought forward in the ensuing session, they will go before the Lords Commissioners with their previous character of official recommendation. This makes it necessary that they should be explained and considered by the literary public now. While they remain in the form of deferred suggestions—discussion has its obvious uses; and as we cannot for ourselves accept either one plan or the other as a final solution of the question before us, we shall take the opportunity of showing wherein we think they severally fail to meet the requirements of the case.

The plan advocated by the Trustees is not new. It was vaguely canvassed for some years before it assumed a positive shape. It was referred to without estimates or details in a communication to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury in 1846. In 1848 it was seriously proposed by the Trustees. The Grenville Library had then fallen in to the nation; and the trustees, to quote their own words, "had no means or prospect of assigning it an appropriate room in the existing building." How long that noble collection lay on dusty floors, unsorted and inaccessible—like so much rubbish in a marine store-dealer's shop,—our readers have not now to be told; nor how it was at last put away in the very worst room for that purpose in the whole edifice. The outcry of the public without the walls, and the inconvenience to all parties concerned in the matter within, induced the Trustees to submit a bold idea at Whitehall. They proposed to purchase the whole of the property lying east of the Museum between Montague Place and Great Russell Street, and to extend the buildings in

that direction,—throwing up another grand front towards Russell Square. The estimated expense of these works was 250,000*l*.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer shook his financial head at so formidable a proposal. Nothing was then done,—and nothing has since been done. The Trustees, however, with the tenacity of all close corporations to an idea once broached, still adhere to their project. But they seem to feel that it has no chance of being adopted by the House of Commons; and in case of its rejection they fall back on Mr. Panizzi's plan.—This latter scheme, and the reasons urged in favour of it by its author, we will give as nearly as possible in his own words:

"It is a known and admitted fact [says Mr. Panizzi in his Report on the subject,] that there is no more available space in which to arrange books in a proper and suitable manner in the Printed Book department; that the collection is, therefore, falling, and will continue to fall, into arrears, the consequences of which are also too well known to be here further insisted upon; that want of accommodation in the reading-rooms, not only for readers, but for books of reference and for catalogues, prevents many persons from making use of the collection of printed books, whilst actual readers pursue their researches and studies amidst many and various discomforts, all owing to the crowded state of those rooms. Supposing that it were at once determined to remove to suitable buildings, to be erected for the purpose, some portion of any of the collections now forming part of the British Museum, or that, in order to provide room for books an enlargement were forthwith decided upon of the present Museum building, as Mr. Panizzi had the honour to suggest long ago, it is manifest that many years must elapse before the advantages to be derived from either alternative could be felt. The additions which would in the interval be made to other collections would greatly curtail the advantages ultimately proposed for the readers and for the department of Printed Books, both of which would in the meanwhile continue to labour under the present and eventual disadvantages already pointed out. Under any circumstances, therefore, and whatever be the determination adopted as to provision being eventually made for the general wants of the British Museum, the claims of the readers require the immediate and special consideration of the Trustees. With respect, moreover, to this most important part of the subject, the accommodation for readers, it seems to Mr. Panizzi that none of the existing parts of the British Museum offer such comforts, conveniences, and advantages as appear to him absolutely required for a proper reading-room of such an institution; a circumstance to which he particularly begs to direct the attention of the Trustees. Having long held this opinion, Mr. Panizzi suggested from the first, and has often suggested since whenever the question of additions to the present building has been brought under discussion, that a new reading-room should be erected; and this suggestion he is more and more convinced must be acted upon even though portions of the collections now contained in the British Museum were removed from it, and the space which they occupy were destined to receive printed books. * * Mr. Panizzi thinks that the inconveniences now felt can be completely remedied as well as all eventual difficulties removed in a short time, and at a comparatively small cost, by the erection of a suitable building in the inner quadrangle, which is at present useless. * * The building now suggested consists of an outer wall, not higher than the sill of the windows of the quadrangle; about eighteen feet. This wall is intended only to protect the contents of the building, not to support it. It ought to be supported by iron columns, and proper iron frames and girders. It would be for the Trustees to consider of what material the rest of the building should consist, and whether the whole or only parts of its roof should be of glass; of course this may partly depend on the quantity of light required. * * It is intended that a space of four feet should be left between the outside of the areas of the building now existing, and the outer wall of the one suggested. Neither the light, nor even the ventilation of the rooms underground would be interfered with, at least not to such an extent as to render

it doubtful whether a slight inconvenience possibly accruing to the use of cellars ought to outweigh the manifest advantages which must evidently result to the readers and library from the adoption of the proposed scheme. By the adoption of that scheme, a reading-room would be provided capable of containing upwards of 560 readers at one and the same time, all comfortably seated. They might have at their free disposal 25,000 volumes of works of reference. The superintendence, which is now peculiarly difficult (in consequence of which mutilations and thefts have of late become not uncommon), would then be as easy and effective as possible. The space assigned to books will, on a moderate calculation, afford room for nearly 400,000."

—The cost of this new Reading-room would be about 56,000*l*. It is the architect's opinion that it might be completed, if that were thought desirable, in about twelve months.

Now, to both the plans here described there is one fatal objection:—that they leave the Museum exactly where it is so far as regards the principle of its arrangement,—and by the fact of addition without change render the agglomerate still more incongruous and unmanageable. The scheme of the Trustees we need not discuss until it shall have a better chance of being listened to. Mr. Panizzi's plan has in its favour the fact that it provides for the remedy of a want long and pressingly felt. No one is, or can be, satisfied with the present Reading-rooms. The public entrance to them is by the old road to the mews. The door is like that of a wine-cellar,—and the passage to the staircase is through a vault in which a fire must be kept burning in the dog-days on account of darkness and damp smells. The Cloak-rooms are situated in the passage. Then, the rooms themselves are dark, badly ventilated, too small for the number of readers, and inconveniently placed with regard to several of the libraries which compose the whole. There is not enough room to dispose the various catalogues in a direct and accessible way;—so that some of the volumes have to stand in piles two or three high. Hence, there are continual migrations of books of reference from one press to another,—and from the Reading-room to the General Library. Even the constant reader at the Museum is frequently placed at fault in his search for the volumes required. But this is not the whole of the question. The readers, already too numerous for their own comfort and convenience, are increasing in number every week; and Mr. Panizzi, "judging from the past, and from what has been stated to him by competent persons, is of opinion that the attendance of readers will be considerably increased if still better accommodation be provided for them." Thus, a fact is admitted by the Keeper of the Printed Books which persons living outside the walls of the Museum have long known,—that readers are prevented from going to the National Library because there is no room in which they can conveniently pursue their studies.—This fact suggests a fundamental question. What is the Library for? Have the people of this country spent nearly half a million of money on books and a lodging for them merely that we may boast to strangers of our national wealth and enjoy the prospect of their gilt bindings,—or has the money been spent to provide teaching for the teachers and supply the nation with knowledge? If the Library be for the reader,—then it is illogical and thoroughly uneconomical, that the books being provided, any arrangement of the subsidiary rooms should be suffered to prevail which excludes from the uses of our literary treasures the very persons in whose behalf they have been amassed with so much cost and trouble to the State.

Mr. Panizzi's plan provides a larger room for the literary public. A glass-house in the inner

court of the Museum certainly presents some important advantages as compared with any room on the ground-floor of the existing edifice. It would be central. It would have a good entrance. It would be large and light. As to ventilation—the imperfection of which is one of the greatest evils of the present reading-rooms—we are not quite assured. We suppose the inner court was designed by the architect to supply a body of fresh air to the several rooms opening on to it; and we have received of late years too many appalling remonstrances against overcrowded quarters not to be cautious in recommending a scheme which might possibly render the whole Museum still more close and baneful than it is. If it could be shown that any fear on this point is groundless,—and that after all other changes should have been made, the space thus available would still be required for a reading-room,—we know of no objection to its being constructed on the plan suggested by Mr. Panizzi and drawn up by Mr. Smirke.

But this plan, like the other, meets only a part of the case. Mr. Panizzi is Keeper of the Printed Books,—and he may be pardoned for neglecting to consider in his scheme that printed books do not constitute the whole of the National Library. The department of Manuscript, though it has not grown with the rapidity of the other section, has made some advances, and ought to have made more, during these last fifteen years. Sir Frederick Madden has scarcely had fair play from the Trustees; and his zeal and sagacity have often been rendered of no avail for the cause of literature by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. When we think of the treasures that might have been secured to the National Library, but which have been allowed to pass into other hands, it is impossible not to feel some impatience with the spirit of nigardliness in which such questions are considered at Whitehall. Sir Robert Chambers's Sanscrit manuscripts, Sir William Ouseley's Persian, Bruce's Ethiopic and Arabic, Michael's Hebrew, Libri's Italian, French, Latin, and miscellaneous, Barrois' French and Latin, as well as the Stowe collection of Anglo-Saxon, Irish, and English manuscripts, should have all been united with the collections in Montague Place. The literary appreciation of our Treasury Lords looks somewhat small beside the example of such a purchaser as Lord Ashburnham. We have Sir Frederick Madden's authority for the statement that during the last ten years alone Lord Ashburnham has invested nearly as much money in the collection of manuscripts as has been expended on the National Manuscript collection since the Museum was founded!

The real accessions to this department since 1836 have been 9,051 volumes,—6,756 charters and rolls,—668 pedigrees, rolls of maps, and miscellanies,—442 seals,—136 manuscripts on bark, reeds, and other materials,—and 42 papyri. The collection is altogether unduly crowded,—and it is at an inconvenient distance from the Reading-Room. But the recent accessions are as nothing to the vast stores of national manuscripts which must ultimately find their way into the National Library. We do not now speak of purchases. Without attempting to rival Sir Thomas Phillips, to compete with Lord Ashburnham, or to traffic with Mr. Robert Cole, we might gather together in that edifice a collection of papers, all of real historical interest, such as no other country in the world can boast of. It is much the same with our manuscript papers as with our pictures; our wealth is not merely great—it is unequalled:—but then, it is so geographically dispersed as to lose nearly half its value. The State Paper Office in Westminster, the "strong box" at

Carlton Ride, the White Tower and the Record Office at the Tower of London, the Treasury, the Admiralty, the Offices of the Privy Council, and other more or less well-known depositaries, contain masses of papers and thousands of volumes in which the history of England is written with minuteness of detail and unimpeachable accuracy as to facts. These papers, the originals and vouchers of nearly every event that has occurred in these islands for five or six hundred years back, are now inaccessible to the general reader. For the greater part, they lie unsorted, uncalendered, and unread. Here and there an adventurous student has brushed away part of the dust of centuries, and made an incursion into their contents,—and we have never known this to be done without the reader finding some original information or obtaining some clues unknown to previous historians. Were these precious documents brought together under one roof—made part and parcel of the National Library—and put into the same state of accessibility as the Harleian or Egerton manuscripts are now,—they would soon be explored by a hundred eager eyes, and their contents rendered available to all future writers of the national story.

The collection of these scattered national literary treasures into one home is so desirable in all respects, and would be so easy to effect were the removal from their present lodgings once resolved, that it becomes necessary in considering a scheme for re-arranging the British Museum on a better plan to take them into the account. Neither the central glass-house nor the new wing in Montague Street would allow any space for this most important concentration of papers. But were the galleries now occupied by birds and beasts, the remains of Egyptian tombs and Grecian temples, cleared of their contents, these might be readily adapted to their reception. And such is their variety and extent, that, adding the inevitable growth of the Newspaper and Printed Book Departments, the whole of the Bloomsbury Palace would probably be found in a few years to be not much too large for its literary contents.

Then, as regards access to the use of these collections. On this subject there are obviously two points to be considered. First—*who* are the persons to be admitted? Second—*when* are they to be admitted?

Any one in the habit of attending the British Museum must be aware that the persons there found are of a very miscellaneous class. Go when you will, there are certain faces that you are almost sure to see. These are generally surrounded by books—*old* books—and manuscripts. They are very silent, and pay little attention to what is passing in the room. If you inquire of the attendants, you will find that they are well known not only in the establishment but beyond it. They are there with serious purposes,—and it is to their labours that your tax-paying public looks for returns for its money. For the sake of convenience, these men may be called the Students. The other class is of a more mixed character. One man has dropped in for a glance at a new novel,—another to look up an isolated fact in an old newspaper,—this person wants to see a map,—that, to have a peep at a curious picture. Some use the room merely as a place of call. Many go there once a year or so, to copy an old print or score of music. But by far the largest number are there to read the 'Penny Cyclopædia,' or some other common book of reference. These persons may be called the Readers.

This division is so obvious, that probably no one acquainted with the physiognomy of the Museum reading-room will object to it. Now, these two classes should, we think, be put on

different terms in a National Library. The Students are, we have said, known men. They have a recognized position in the world of letters, and a certain responsibility as to character before the public. The Readers are for the most part unknown either to the officers of the institution or to the world outside. Facilities might be safely extended to the class Student, which a cautious body of Trustees would hold to be dangerous with the miscellaneous class Reader. In Paris and in many other Continental cities the distinction which we claim for our own literary men is made. Any well-known author is allowed to take books out of the Bibliothèque Nationale on his personal responsibility. This is a licence that we have no wish to see imitated in London; but we conceive that, without going to such dangerous lengths, arrangements might be adopted amongst us which would prevent the earnest explorers of literary and political history from being continually interrupted in their labours by the walking and talking, the wheezing and sneezing, of the two hundred daily idlers. The object might be at once and easily effected by giving the really working students a separate room.

With respect to the hours of admission, Nature herself prescribes a sort of limitation. A collection of books which no amount of mere money could replace is evidently not to be submitted to the risk of fire, and must therefore inevitably be closed when night falls. That in winter the night comes down too early for the industrious reader, is one of the accidents of climate against which it is useless to murmur:—those who use the Library must be content with such times and seasons as our latitude affords. But then, having the evil of short days for a part of the year before our eyes, would it not be well to make one of our lightest apartments, instead of the darkest, into the reading-room? The proposed glass-house in the inner court would at least be well lighted. If the whole structure were given up to the library, it would be easy to obtain a room lighted from above, and therefore as well lighted as can be expected in the heart of London.

But looking to the general public—the public thirsting for such intellectual waters as lie in the great reservoirs in the Museum, but busy all day in workshop, counting-house, or street, and therefore incapable of slaking that thirst in the only way now open to them,—is there no means of providing that these men and women shall have access in the evening to the stores of the National Library without peril of the irrevocable loss which fire might entail? Surely it is not impossible to conceive a scheme for opening the Museum to the toiling thousands without risk. Suppose a building were erected—say in Montague Place or Charlotte Street—apart from the Library, and connected with it only by a stone or an iron covered way, which way could be made perfectly fireproof,—might not such a building be lighted at night with gas, as little to the peril of the great collection as is the gas now burning every night in the houses already occupying the suggested site? This building might be stored with some of the many thousand duplicates and triplicates in the great library, and with all the ordinary volumes for reference. These alone would satisfy many readers. Those who required books from the great library might obtain them in the usual way until dusk:—it would be soon understood that all books asked for after dusk would be ready next day. All that is required for putting this scheme into immediate operation, is, a detached building, a superintending officer, and a messenger.

It is, we repeat, because the two schemes submitted by the Trustees to the Lords of the Treasury provide for scarcely any of these great

interests, that we cannot accept either as definitive and final. Neither of them meets the whole case. Both are temporary, both insufficient. We have no objection to a large reading-room, but we must strenuously oppose the idea of a room with five hundred readers. The present room, with its average of one hundred at a time, is intolerable to any person doing serious work. No man can write well at the Museum—not one in ten can read to any good purpose. What would it be if there were five hundred persons coughing, scribbling, rocking, stamping, walking, talking, laughing, sneezing, snoring, fumbling, grumbling, mumbling—all in one miscellaneous chorus!

Reuben Medlicott; or, the Coming Man. By M. W. Savage. 3 vols. Chapman & Hall.

We are bound to state that Mr. Savage does not improve as a novelist. 'My Uncle the Curate,' as the *Athenæum* said on the occasion of its appearance [*Ath.* No. 1115], was a dull book,—but this is a duller one;—not solely because of its subject, but in part from the manner in which that subject is wrought out. A narrative of foibles, bearing bitter apples for fruit—of hopes disappointed and promises unfulfilled—can rarely be very inspiring. Yet, Miss Edgeworth, in her stories of *Finian*, the persuadable man, and of *Basil Louie*, the procrastinator, knew how to administer such relief and contrast that we could read those admirably executed tales without our hopes in humanity being chilled, and without our views of life becoming pinched and dwarfed by reason of the low and waste monotony of the prospect within which they were confined. It may be recollected that we object to Mr. Thackeray, as to a novelist who deals too grudgingly with all that is amiable and elevated; but, even into his most discouraging scenes—such, for instance, as the surprise of *Becky* over her *petit souper* with *Lord Steyne*—he will every now and then throw a touch of strong feeling and human interest. Now, we have met with few writers who scatter their amenities so sparingly as Mr. Savage. Without commanding De Balzac's force or minuteness, he has all De Balzac's dreariness. His story contains a character, and exhibits a complete picture;—but the person selected is singularly unpleasing,—and the full-length gallery picture has not an inch of blue sky or an episode of flower-vase in the background, by way of relief.

Failure at school—failure at college—failure in parliament—failure at the bar—failure in platform oratory—failure, even, in the Quaker asceticism through which "the coming man" passes as one phase of his many changes,—such are the incidents of Mr. Savage's book. Reuben Medlicott has many showy qualities and gracious gifts; but he is as unstable as water, and as vain as a foolish French beauty of the *ancien régime*. Such a hero, Mr. Savage may rest assured, would never have married the daughter of the quaint old Dissenting dame from whom he had his schooling. Nor is there any one character in the book which may serve as a foil to the hero in right of extraordinary gifts or virtues. His mother is foolish,—his father is a non-entity,—his aunt is weak,—the idol of his school-boy days marries his grandfather!—his favourite associates, a French shoemaker and a sister, are not much better than they should be. The descriptions are more smart than strong,—more diffuse than impressive. We select one of the best and most manageable scenes,—a Protestant meeting at Chichester.—

"All 'tremendous demonstrations' resemble one another very closely: an excited knot of noblemen and gentlemen on a platform, a tumultuous sea of

heads on the floor, an agitated bevy of mothers, aunts, and sisters in a gallery, a little table for reporters, a peer in the chair, if a peer can be found to fill it, but never anything beneath the baronetage. On the present occasion, the platform was thronged with parsons and squires until it overflowed; and every now and then a vicar, or a pair of top-boots, came tumbling down among the smock-frocks, who united their shoulders to heave him up again. When this disaster befel a man of ordinary dimensions, he was reinstated on the platform with no great difficulty; but when it happened to public characters of more than average weight, the attempt to replace them sometimes proved as ineffectual as in the case of the celebrated Humpty Dumpty in the nursery rhyme. It was unquestionably a 'tremendous demonstration' of the lungs of the men of Sussex. John Bull bellowed like a herd of his four-footed namesakes, and the Protestant lion roared his best, without the slightest respect to the nerves of the ladies. Bottom would have been greatly scandalised. Awful resolutions were proposed by peers, and seconded by commoners, but as to the eloquence, it was uniformly stifled by its own applause, and perished for ever in the premature raptures of the audience. It was proved, however, beyond a doubt, that there were two Curtii present, ready to jump into any chasm which the British soil might please to open beneath their feet; a Brutus in buckskin was equally prepared to sacrifice all the private affections to the public welfare; as to Sydney, Hampdens, and Russells, they appeared that day in a force that reflected undying honour upon the patriotism of Englishmen. How often Popery was flatly negated with the energy of Cromwell himself, is not to be told in figures; but three orators, at least, pledged their lives and fortunes to defend the throne and the altar; the same number of prophetic voices foretold the sunset of British liberty; and thrice three times was it powerfully urged upon the vast assembly to unite, heart and hand, in a 'strong pull, a long pull, and a pull altogether.' In the front of the gallery assigned to the ladies, who came to brave the roaring of the lion aforesaid, sat Mrs. Medlicott, and Hannah and Mary Hopkins. Their eyes were riveted on the platform, but it was not on the chairman they gazed, although he was the Earl of Stromness, nor on the Vicar, for he was lost in the crowd, nor on Mr. Pigwidgeon, ludicrous figure as he cut, for there was no novelty in that—you had only to watch the point where the three lines of female vision united, to convince yourself that they sought nothing, saw nothing, thought of nothing during that great day and demonstration, but the youngest of the patriot band, he who came to dedicate the first-fruits of his talents and his fame to the service of his creed and his country. Probably few of the ladies present had been unobservant of Reuben from an early period of the day, for he was conspicuous not only by his handsome person, but by his dress, which could scarcely have been gayer or more elaborate had he been going to be married, instead of only going to make a speech. His hair, artfully divided, shone like Apollo's, and flowed on his shoulders almost as wantonly as in his boyhood; a bouquet, nearly as large as Barsac's, bloomed in his button-hole; and the virgin whiteness of his gloves typified the maiden eloquence with which he was about to enchant the world. The soporiness was not entirely his own; the gloves were due to his mother, the flowers had been insisted on and even arranged on his breast by the young Quakeress. Nor was it amiss that so much care had been bestowed on his toilette; for had he been confounded with the parsons and the squires, his rising would not have commanded the attention that it did, and his oratory would probably have been lost, like that of the rest, in the incessant uproar of the meeting. Everything, however, was propitious, but, perhaps, most of all the emphatic and gracious manner in which the Earl of Stromness, a man of the highest courtesy, introduced him to the audience, as 'the son of his respected friend, the Rev. Thomas Medlicott.' Instantly the chawbacons, hundreds of whom were the Earl's tenants, raised a shout that well nigh brought down the roof of the Court-house. The din was little in unison with the modesty and gentleness with which the palpitating Reuben took his place in the front of the platform. His rising was soft

as the south wind; and you might have marked its effects in the female gallery, how the breeze fluttered the bonnets, rustled among the ribbons, and especially how it made the maternal stomacher rise and fall, like a sail when the wind is irresolute. He rose, he spoke, he triumphed. His was the only speech that was not only delivered, but of which a considerable portion was heard. A most excellent speech it was of the school of oratory it belonged to, though there were principles of eloquence by which it would have been cruel to have tried it. If, however, it had the defects of youth, it had its merits also; it was fresh, it was fiery, it was animated and courageous. There was not a Quintilian in the meeting to find fault with it. Tried by the test of success, not Demosthenes himself could have gained a completer victory. Up flew a cloud of hats before the exordium was over; the orator was actually invisible for a second. The same demonstration was repeated a score of times; upon one occasion Mr. Pigwidgeon (who was striking another stroke for a dinner) must throw up his beaver among the rest, and he never recovered it, for it fell among the mob, and was trampled to pieces in an instant. The hat was not worth sixpence, but he vowed it was a new one—a thing he had never been known to possess in his life. What signified Mr. Pigwidgeon's hat, or Mr. Pigwidgeon himself? Even Protestantism was forgotten in the excitement and enthusiasm occasioned by the flowers of Reuben's rhetoric, not unaided by the flowers in his coat. If one passage outshone another, where all was splendour, it was the dangerous topic of apostasy—the graphic picture of a renegade divine, which reached its climax, when the orator described the vain endeavours of such a fallen character to regain his lost position, and imagined the reception he would assuredly meet with from every honest man. Here he turned to good account the lines in Milton:—

Think'st thou, revolted spirit, thy shape the same,
Or undiminish'd glory, as when once
Thou stood'st erect in heav'n, erect and pure?

The air was drenched with waving hats again; the enthusiasm mounted to the galleries, the women waved their handkerchiefs wildly, and Mrs. Medlicott and the Quakeresses, who had taken off their bonnets in consequence of the heat, tossed them about fanatically, and almost forgot their sex in the violence of their transports. In short, it was a relief to everybody when the last bolt was launched, and the last long-protracted peal of applause greeted the solemn and high-wrought peroration.

The above passage, we think, will be found to illustrate within itself at once Mr. Savage's strength and his want of strength. In fact, this second disappointment convinces us that the three-volume novel is not our author's forte. The sharp, clever sketch—the short philosophical tale, in which want of incident is forgiven for the sake of pithy apothegms or logical sequences—the satire that keeps on the levels, in place of soaring high or sinking deep—are all at his command. It is fatal to a man's individuality to fancy that there is but one form of Art, one vehicle of expression palatable in the present day—the three-volume novel:—and we wish Mr. Savage would own this, and act on it, —let his publishers take it as they will.

Rambles and Scrambles in North and South America. By Edward Sullivan, Esq. Bentley.

WHERE our light travellers are next to go in search of matter for their diaries, it is daily becoming more difficult to determine. Railways and steam-boats, that facilitate voyaging, take away, with the peril and toil, much of the romance of travel. The author of the volume before us is one of the many tourists for amusement who can scarcely now be classed as travellers, though in times of less abundant locomotion they might have taken rank in the latter category. His volume has no great pretensions, but it is amusing as mere light reading. The first half is devoted to the United States, including a visit to the Prairies, Niagara, &c.;

—and here the writer has gone over ground so often described by abler pens, that nothing novel or strange remains for us to touch. But when he arrives at New Orleans, and describes his tour to Havana, Guiana, and Demerara, the comparative freshness of his matter greatly improves the quality of his chapters. In this portion of his work we stumble on many characteristic traits. Thus, in describing the voyage down the Mississippi the writer says:—

"All the old jokes about the steamers drawing so little water, that they can cross the country anywhere after a heavy dew; and the fact, that when the water is very low and the channel intricate, the captain walks ahead with a lantern, &c., are repeated to travellers first steaming down the Mississippi. The pilot told me that in the worn-out steamers they cannot afford to have negro stokers—they are too expensive. Every time a boiler bursts they would lose so many dollars' worth of slaves; whereas, by getting Irishmen at a dollar a-day they pay for the article as they get it, and if it is blown up, why they get another, and only lose a day's wages by the transaction. He said that the very worst steamers, which even Irishmen would not go in, are stoked by old worn-out niggers who were good for nothing else—pleasant work in one's old age! Just as we arrived at Memphis, a little excitement was visible; a runaway negro, goaded to distraction at being retaken, had struck his master; he was lynched on the spot. Memphis was, some years ago, the scene of one of the most extensive executions on the principle of Judge Lynch that has taken place in the Union. Seventeen of the gamblers and bullies, who once held rule upon the banks of the Mississippi, and were the terror of all the peacefully-minded travellers, were seized and lynched by the enraged citizens of Memphis. A very good riddance; and if the lynch-law was always as well directed as in this latter instance, there would not be much reason to abuse it; but lately, in California, some of the most frightful murders have been committed under the specious pretence of the necessity of immediate justice. I could not help being amused at the commiseration expressed for a certain doctor, a large slave-owner, who had just lost ten negroes by the sinking of a boat in the river! Not a feeling of pity was vouchsafed to the unfortunate negroes; but he, poor man! it was a heavy loss to him, especially as just at that time negroes were looking up; and moreover, his losses during the cholera season had been very heavy!"

At New Orleans we find manners and customs indicated in the following passage.—

"I made a point of going to some of the quadrone balls. I had heard a great deal of the splendid figures and graceful dancing of the New Orleans quadrone, and I certainly was not disappointed. Their movements are the most easy and graceful that I have ever seen. They danced one figure, somewhat resembling the Spanish fandango, without castanets, and I never saw more perfect dancing on any stage. I wonder some of the opera lessees in Europe do not import some for their *corps de ballet*: the expense, I conclude, is against it. A handsome quadrone could not be bought for less than one thousand or fifteen hundred dollars! though the market is well supplied at that price. These balls take place in a large saloon: at the entrance, where you pay half a dollar, you are requested to leave your implements, by which is meant your bowie-knives and revolvers; and you leave them as you would your overcoat on going into the opera, and get a ticket with their number, and on your way out they are returned to you. You hear the pistol and bowie-knife keeper in the arms-room call out, 'No. 45—a six-barrelled repeater.' 'No. 100—one eight-barrelled revolver, and bowie-knife with a death's-head and cross-bones cut on the handle.' 'No. 95—a brace of double-barrels.' All this is done as naturally as possible, and you see fellows fasten on their knives and pistols as coolly as if they were tying on a comforter or putting on a coat. As I was going up stairs, after getting my ticket, and replying to the quiet request, 'whether I would leave my arms,' that I had none to leave, I was stopped and searched from head to foot by a policeman, who, I suppose, fancied it impossible that I should be alto-

gether without arms. Notwithstanding all this care, murders and duels are of weekly occurrence at these balls, and during my stay at New Orleans there were three. There are more murders here than in any other city in the Union. In the first place, everybody drinks hard, and every man is armed; and a man who does not avenge an insult on the spot is despised. It is a word and a blow, and not unfrequently the blow without the word. The southern men are naturally hot blooded, and duelling is part of their creed; and the northern men, who come down south, what with drink, gambling, and the excitement of speculation, are not apt to be very backward in taking up a quarrel. A 'difficulty,' as it is called, took place in the bar-room of the hotel where I was staying between two young men, and one of them was killed. There were about a hundred men present, but not one of them interfered to stop it; nobody arrested the homicide, and after quietly wiping his knife he walked away. I asked one old gentleman who was present whether he would not be arrested and tried. He said they would have him up before the magistrates on the morrow; but that his opponent had called him a liar, which was quite a sufficient provocation for stabbing him. He said there was a glorious expression of public feeling in New Orleans in favour of justifiable homicide, and that no jury could find a man guilty who, as in this case, had had any provocation. The character of the population of New Orleans is worse now than it has ever been, in consequence of the numbers of returned Californians, with all their reckless habits and notions. Some idea of the gambling spirit of speculation in this city may be gathered from the fact that the *Atlantic*, steamer, after being thirty days over her time, was insured here at fifty per cent. A real go-ahead Yankee will insure all creation for half nothing! During my fortnight's residence at New Orleans, the *Autocrat* steamer was run down, and forty passengers drowned; the *John Adams* burst, and burned a hundred and forty; and another steamer, laden with cotton, took fire and burned sixty passengers; all which casualties, as I before remarked, did not so much as elicit a larger type, or any 'additional particulars' from the editors."

Cuba is just now an object of great interest, owing to the rumoured designs of a certain party in America to obtain possession of it. The most valuable portion of Mr. Sullivan's book is, his account of this island and his description of life there. In his description of the island he evidently has no political object; but attention having been strongly directed to Cuba since he wrote his book, what comes from his pen will have more attraction perhaps than the author expected. He describes this place as being far more prosperous than any other of the West India islands.—

"The prosperity of the Island of Cuba, and the energy of its population, composed chiefly of a race that in all other parts of the world have proved themselves, during the two last centuries at least, the most useless and stand-still of modern nations, is far beyond any comparison with the prosperity or energy visible in the other West India islands, although inhabited by races of originally far more plodding and enterprising natures. Of course, a great proportion of this remarkable difference is to be attributed to the maintenance of cheap slave labour in the former case, and the difficulty of procuring any whatsoever in the latter; but still the Spanish character in Cuba seems in a great degree to have lost that retrospective sloth which has latterly been its distinguishing feature, and to have recovered a good deal of that enterprising and speculative spirit which, some three hundred years since, made its merchants and commerce the envy of the world. In addition to the splendid quays and wharfs which I have before mentioned, and which would do credit to the most wealthy capital in Europe, the Creoles of Cuba, scorning the anti-improving spirit of the inhabitants of old Spain, who seem to consider it of more consequence to spend time than to save it, and who view with horror any of the innovations of this progressive age, seize upon every new adaptation of steam and improved machinery for the manufacture of sugar with the greatest eagerness; and the introduction of any improvement on one estate is speedily

followed by its adoption over the whole island; and risk and expense are disregarded in real Yankee style, when the objects to be gained are a saving of time and an increased production. Amongst other improvements, railroads are fast spreading over the island; they are well constructed, and the carriages easy and strongly built, and the speed averages between twenty and thirty miles an hour."

The anti-abolitionists in the States affirm, that if Cuba were annexed, it would help their efforts to maintain the institution of slavery,—but they may be reckoning too hastily on the indifference of European powers. Mr. Sullivan mentions a circumstance relating to the invasion by Lopez that those parties who have designs on Cuba should recollect.—

"When Lopez's invasion was first mooted, and the Creole population affected to sympathise, the Governor-General gave the whole of the slave population within ten miles of the Havana three days' holiday, that the whites might be able to form some idea of their numbers, strength, and ferocity, and take a wholesome warning against favouring any agitation which might bring about the horrors of a slave rising. It is said that the sight of these fifty or sixty thousand African warriors swaggering through the streets, and the knowledge that the same struggle which liberated them from the Spanish rule might also liberate the blacks from theirs, did more to quench the rising feeling in favour of 'Libertad' amongst the Creoles than any dread of the soldiers of old Spain. It was a ticklish proceeding on the part of the Governor-General, and would have been scarcely warranted, but for the presence of twenty thousand men under arms the whole time, and the possibility of the slaves procuring arms being strictly guarded against."

Mr. Sullivan's description of life in the city of Havana is very interesting. The Cuban manners contrast picturesquely enough with the eager go-ahead life of the United States.—Here is a fact worth noting about the West India regiments. It should be premised, however, that the officers are British.—

"The West Indian regiments are entirely recruited from the coast of Africa, no West Indian negro, on account of their notorious pusillanimity, being allowed to enlist; and as none have been christened before they enlist, the recruiting officer gives them any name that enters into his head. Comparatively few of the soldiers speak English, their knowledge of the language being confined to the words of command. Their social position as full privates in her Majesty's service is so much higher than that of any other of the West Indian negroes, their pride in their uniform so great, and their difference in language and disposition so complete, that the pure Africans associate very little with the negroes of the islands, and in the event of any disturbances, far from having any disposition to fraternize with them against the whites, the greatest difficulty has been experienced, in some recent riots at Trinidad and elsewhere, to restrain their almost ferocious hatred of their black brethren. The fact is, the black soldier is proud of his position—that most valuable of all the feelings that can animate a soldier—so much superior to any that he could ever have hoped to have attained in his own country, and, moreover, has never been exposed to any of that debasing treatment, which in most countries has created an envious hatred of the whites."

There are some instances of bad taste in the volume before us that ought to be removed if it should reach a second edition. Surely, Mr. Sullivan should not have printed such a passage as this, from which we omit the initial letter of the host's name, as given by the author. The *locus in quo* was Georgetown.—

"A party, sixteen or seventeen of us, met at luncheon, at the house of Mr. —, a most hospitable, gentlemanly man. He is, on his father's side at least, of pretty good extraction. His father was the Duke of Kent, and his wife is the daughter of George IV.—a curious coincidence. The luncheon was magnificent, but whether it was taking ice after port wine, or port wine after ice, or not taking the ice or omitting the port wine, I cannot say, but we were all very nearly poisoned, and the show at mess in the evening was very small."

The foregoing passage is very like the style that brought so much discredit on some of our travellers years ago.

The Botany of the Voyage of H.M.S. Herald, under the Command of Capt. Henry Kellett, R.N., during the Years 1845—51. By Berthold Seemann, Naturalist of the Expedition. Parts I. and II. Reeve & Co.

THE Herald, which has played so prominent a part amongst the recent Expeditions in search of Sir John Franklin, was originally despatched from this country, as our readers know, for the purpose of continuing the splendid survey of the Western coasts of the American continent commenced by Capt. Fitz-Roy, and completed as far as the Bay of Guayaquil. In the beginning of 1848, having by that time finished the entire survey of South America, Capt. Kellett received orders to proceed to the Polar Seas, with the view of co-operating with the vessels composing the relief Expedition. He returned unsuccessful; and resumed his survey in January, 1849, after having been nine months absent. In March following he departed again for Behring's Straits, to make a bold start for the North,—but with no greater success than in the previous year; and he once more returned to the Western coast of North America to resume his survey, after an absence of eight months. In April, 1850, a third cruise to the North was undertaken,—but again without result as regards its primary object; and in the autumn of that year the Herald bade adieu to the Arctic regions, to return home by way of China and the Cape of Good Hope. She arrived at Spithead in June, 1851, after an absence of six years. Few ships have in an equal space of time gone over so extensive a portion of the globe, furnished a greater amount of hydrographical data, or brought together a more extensive collection of objects of natural history and important observations, than H.M.S. Herald; and the information thus collected will shed a great light on the geography of many of the countries bordering the North Pacific Ocean.

By the liberality of the Admiralty the Botany and Zoology of the voyage are now in course of publication; and the Narrative—intended for the general reader—will be published before the close of the present year.

The foregoing summary was necessary in order to indicate the scope of the work of which the first two parts are now before us,—and which, when completed, will consist of five separate parts, representing so many different Floras:—namely,—

1. The Flora of Western Esquimaux Land, comprising the North-Western portion of North America.
2. The Flora of the Isthmus of Panama.
3. The Flora of North-Western Mexico.
4. The Flora of Southern China.
5. Plants collected in the Hawaiian Islands, Peru, Ecuador, and Kamtschatka.

—In his capacity of naturalist to the Expedition, Mr. Seemann obtained leave, as often as circumstances would permit, to make excursions into the interior of the countries along the coast of which the survey was going on; and he thus explored a great portion of Ecuador, Panama, and other parts of Central America and Mexico.

The parts now published possess an interest independent of scientific botany, inasmuch as any new information respecting the natural features both of the Arctic regions and of Panama must at the present time be particularly acceptable. In this respect we like the plan followed by Mr. Seemann in this work; which is, not to give merely a dry synopsis of the Flora, but to preface each of his divisions with an "historical

notice" detailing the events and scientific labours which led to our present knowledge of the districts treated of,—and an "Introduction" conveying a general notice of the country and an account of the conditions under which the vegetable and animal kingdoms flourish. The general reader will, indeed, find under these two heads a comprehensive picture of the country drawn by a hand whose study of nature and scientific attainments are evidently of a high order.

The following passage gives a good idea of the nature of the Arctic regions and its inhabitants. Speaking of Western Esquimaux Land, the author says:—

"This region is as yet unchanged by human efforts.

The Esquimaux, by their migratory habits, by spreading from Greenland to the Aleutian Islands, and by their annual journeys, as well as by their intercourse with the Tchukchis of Asia, may have contributed towards extending the range of certain species; but since cultivation of the soil is unknown, they can have exercised only a limited influence on the aspect of the Flora. Villages exist, yet all that our minds associate with them is wanting. On approaching, we expect to meet with roads and bridges and smiling fields, to behold peaceful dwellings peeping through green boughs, and the steeples of the church towering heavenwards. In an Esquimaux village these pleasing features are looked for in vain. In the commencement of summer the habitations are deserted, the natives having left for the coast, in order to lay in a stock of whale and seal blubber. The underground dwellings look cheerless and are filled with water, the surrounding ground is scattered with bones and fragments of skin, broken sledges, and other remnants; the paths are overgrown with herbage; the whole presenting a picture of misery and desolation. The Esquimaux have not yet learned that migratory habits and progress in civilization are opposed to each other; they have not yet learned to make the soil supply more than it is willing spontaneously to yield. The whole region is in a state of nature, and up to the year 1850 the only plants cultivated were a few turnips, which the commandant of a Russian trading post had sown near the fort of St. Michael. The natives care little for vegetable food, though they cannot entirely dispense with it. In the spring the leaves of the sorrel (*Rumex domesticus*, Hartm.) are eagerly sought, in order to arrest the ravages of scurvy; and again towards autumn the roots of the masha (*Polygonum bistorta*, Linn.) As a stock for the winter, raspberries, whortleberries, and cranberries are collected, placed in boxes, and preserved by being frozen into such a hard mass that in order to divide it recourse must be had to the axe, or some other sharp instrument. Nor do the Esquimaux make more use of vegetable substances for other purposes. Fuel they scarcely need, except for cooking. In their summer tents they require no fire, and their subterranean dwellings, on being heated, become uncomfortable, and begin to thaw and leak. The flames of a few lamps, the wicks of which are made of a moss (*Sphagnum fimbriatum*, Wils. et Hook.), supply the necessary heat. Birches and willows furnish materials for bows, spruce-trees for arrows, while drift-wood affords means for constructing the skeleton of the *baidars*, or the walls of the hut. Man cannot be charged with having defaced the primeval aspect of this region; he has left everything as it was in the beginning. The mineral wealth rests undisturbed in the bowels of the earth; the vegetable kingdom still exercises an absolute sovereignty; and the animal creation swarms over the boundless steppes, rarely disturbed by the sight of the hunter, and uncontrolled by the voice of the herdsman."

It is curious to compare this with the following analogous picture of the tropical regions of Panama. Both lead to one great truth:—that neither a too cold nor a too warm climate is favourable to the higher development of the human race.—

"In such a country, where nature has supplied nearly every want of life, and where the consumption of a limited population is little felt, agriculture, deprived of its proper stimulus, cannot make much progress. It is, therefore, in the Isthmus in the

most primitive state: our first parents hardly could have carried it on more rudely. A spade is a curiosity, the plough has never been heard of, and the only implements used for converting forests into fields are, the axe and the machete (or chopping-knife). A piece of ground intended for cultivation is selected in the forests, cleared of the trees by felling and burning them, and surrounded with a fence. In the beginning of the wet season the field is set with plants by simply making a hole with the machete, and placing the seed or root in it. The extreme heat and moisture soon call them into activity, the fertility of a virgin soil affords them ample nourishment, and without the further aid of man a rich harvest is produced. The same ground is occupied two or three years in succession; after that time the soil is so hard and the old stumps have thriven with so much energy that a new spot has to be chosen. In most countries this mode of cultivation would be impossible to practise; but in New Granada all the unoccupied land is common property, of which anybody may appropriate as much as he pleases, provided he encloses it either artificially or by taking advantage of rivers, the sea, or mountains. As long as the land is enclosed it remains in his possession; whenever the fence is decayed the land again becomes the property of the republic. Colonial produce, such as sugar, coffee, cacao, tamarinds, &c., which require more attention than the inhabitants are wont to bestow, are merely raised for home consumption; and although the provincial government has tried to encourage this branch of industry by offering premiums for growing a certain number of plants, and the soil and climate are favourable, yet none, except a few enterprising foreigners, have taken a prominent part in the cultivation, and there is reason to believe that while the country remains so thinly populated as at present, the high price of labour, consequent on such a state of society, will be a lasting impediment to the establishing of plantations on a large scale. The cerealia grown are rice and Indian corn. The former was introduced by the Spaniards; the latter was known before the conquest to the aborigines, who raised it extensively, and used to prepare from it their bread, and *chicha*, a kind of beer. Some successful experiments with wheat have been made on the mountains of Veraguas, which will doubtless lead to an extensive cultivation of that grain. Of desert fruit probably no country can exhibit a greater variety."

Arctic literature is rather deficient in botanical works; and the Flora of Esquimaux-Land is therefore a valuable addition,—especially as the book contains also the observations and collections of Captain Pullen, Captain Penny, and others, in different parts of the Arctic regions. The Flora of the Isthmus of Panama contains altogether a larger amount of information respecting the natural features and resources of that at present important country than we had previously possessed. The following extracts respecting the climate, and on the poisonous plants, indicate the range of observation brought to bear in this work.—

"With the exception of the higher mountains, where the temperature is comparatively low, the climate is hot and rainy. The seasons are distributed into wet and dry. The rains commence with the appearance of the new moon in April, and are in the beginning mere passing showers; but they gradually increase, and are fully established towards the end of May, when they fall in torrents, sometimes for days together in succession, and are accompanied by thunder and lightning of the most terrific description. Save a few days about the 24th of June, the Verano de San Juan, the rains continue for eight months, until the end of December, and in Southern Darien and some parts of the Atlantic side they last almost the whole year. During this time fogs, calms, and light variable winds prevail, and the air is loaded with so much moisture that leather cleaned in the morning is densely covered with mould in the evening. The temperature does not vary more than from 75° to 87° Fahr.; but still perspiration being impeded, the temperature feels hot and close, and to a European some of the nights are almost insufferable. Tired in the extreme, he throws himself on his couch, but no sleep closes his eyes. Everything is hot and uncomfortable, and the pillow is repeat-

edly turned over to get the coolest side. In the Arctic regions the traveller, having only a limited supply of food, and labouring under great bodily privations, is constantly dreaming about gorgeous feasts and tables covered with delightful viands; in tropical countries, when suffering from heat and languor, he is involuntarily reminded of refreshing breezes, frosty mornings, and the cool bed that used to receive his weary limbs. Towards the end of December the violent rains diminish in frequency, and with the commencement of the new year the north-west wind sets in. An immediate change follows. The air becomes pure and refreshing, the sky blue and serene, hardly a cloud is to be seen, and there being but little moisture in the atmosphere, the heat, though ranging between 75° and 94° Fahr., is less felt. Scarcely has dawn commenced when everybody is in action. Nature stands invigorated by night's repose, and heavy drops of dew hang on every leaf. Stately palms wave their foliage in the morning air, and gay-coloured humming-birds, parrots, and macaws diffuse animation over the scene. This time is delightful, but of short duration. Towards nine o'clock the heat begins to be felt, and that lassitude for which tropical regions are so well known seizes everything. The leaves droop, the wild pigeons cease to utter their notes, and the inhabitants seek shelter in the shade of their dwellings. At noon a profound silence prevails, only broken now and then by some reptile gliding among the dead leaves of the forest, or by the solitary tapping of the woodpecker. Not a breath stirs the air, the whole atmosphere trembles from the excessive heat, and the thermometer of Fahrenheit, when exposed to the full influence of the scorching rays, frequently rises to the height of 124 degrees. In the afternoon the heat becomes less oppressive, breezes spring up, and the cool air of the evening calls forth a new life. The forests are now glittering with myriads of fireflies, crickets are chanting their merry tunes, and here and there are groups of people chatting and amusing themselves. But nothing can exceed the beauty of the scene when the full moon rises, shedding its silvery light over the broad foliage of the tropics. Whatever may have been the fatigue of the day, whatever the body may have suffered from heat and languor, all is forgotten when this spectacle presents itself. Such a night baffles description, it is the quintessence of equinoctial life."

On the poisonous plants, the author says:—

"The most dreaded of the poisonous plants are, the Amancay (*Thevetia nerifolia*, Juss.), Cojon del gato (*Thevetia nitida*, De Cand.), Manzanillo de Playa (*Hippomane Mancinella*, Linn.), Florispondio (*Datura sanguinea*, Ruiz et Pav.), and Bala (*Gliciridia maculata*, Kunth). It is said of the Manzanillo de Playa, that persons have died from sleeping beneath its shade; and that its milky juice raises blisters on the skin which are difficult to heal. The first of these statements must be regarded as fabulous, and the second be received with a degree of modification. Some people will bear the juice upon the surface of the body without being in the least affected by it, while others do experience the utmost pain, the difference seeming to depend entirely upon a man's constitution. Great caution, however, is required in protecting the eyes, for if the least drop enters them, loss of sight and the most acute smarting for several days are the consequence. The smoke arising from the wood produces a similar effect. While surveying on the coast of Darien a boat's crew of H.M.S. Herald was blinded for some days from having kindled a fire with the branches of this tree. Whenever the natives are affected by the poison, they at once wash the injured part in salt water. This remedy is most efficacious, and, as the Manzanillo is always confined to the edge of the ocean, of easy application. It has been stated that the Indians of the Isthmus dip their arrows in the juice of the Manzanillo. There are, however, various reasons for doubting this assertion; first, because the poison is, like that of all Euphorbiaceæ, extremely volatile, and, however virulent when first procured, soon loses its power; secondly, because its effect, even when fresh, is by no means so strong as to cause the death of human beings, not even producing, as has been stated, the slightest injury on some constitutions. The statement may therefore be considered as an inaccuracy, and it may rather be supposed that the Indians, like those of Guiana, obtain their poison

from the two species of *Strychnos* common throughout Panama and Darien. The fruit of the Amancay (*Thevetia nerifolia*, Juss.) is also considered very poisonous; but its dangerous qualities have probably been over-rated. There is a gentleman in Panama who, when a boy, ate four of these fruits without experiencing any other effect than mere griping. The leaves of the Bala, or, as it is also called, *Madera negra* (*Gliciridia maculata*, Kth.) are used to poison rats. The Florispondio (*Datura sanguinea*, Ruiz et Pav.) appears to have always played, and still continues to play, a prominent part in the superstition of tropical America. The Indians of Darien, as well as those of Chocó, prepare from its seeds a decoction, which is given to their children to produce a state of excitement in which they are supposed to possess the power of discovering gold. In any place where the unhappy patients happen to fall down, digging is commenced; and, as the soil nearly everywhere abounds with gold-dust, an amount of more or less value is obtained. In order to counteract the bad effect of the poison, some *Sor Chicha de Maiz*, a beer made of Indian corn is administered."

The way in which Mr. Seemann has performed his task is, as we have said, deserving of great praise. The general descriptions are in a graphic and bold style, and call to mind the writings of a Humboldt or a Darwin:—while the accuracy and value of the scientific parts are guaranteed by the names of Harvey, Wilson, Nees von Esenbeck, Bentham, J. D. Hooker, J. Smith, Churchill, Babington, and others, who have lent the author a helping hand. Sir William Hooker has, with his accustomed liberality, allowed Mr. Seemann the use of his extensive herbarium and library.

Journals of a Landscape Painter in Southern Calabria. By Edward Lear. Bentley.

It is not from ballads and romances only that we have been led to cherish a great hankering after Calabria,—but from an idea engendered by the paragraphs and chapters of former tourists, that there might be studied an order of Italian scenery, Italian life, and Italian character entirely differing from those to be found among the stirring and tumultuous Geneese, or among the humorous and good-natured gondoliers of Venice, or in the Eternal City of Rome so strangely parcelled out betwixt crouching pilgrims and fiercely-stern *Trasteverini*, or in the midst of the *Lazzaroni* of Naples. This impression has received strong confirmation from Mr. Lear's handsome and pleasant volume. The landscape illustrations to it exceed in picturesque grandeur those which decorated his '*Journals in Albania*.' Few scenes could outdo the mixture of singularity and sublimity which is to be found in his views of Palizzi, Gioiosa, Pentadati, Santa Maria di Monte Vergine, San Michele di Monte Voltore, and other of the spirited lithographs with which this book abounds. And, whereas Nature proves to have been admirable, Man, in these remote places was not found altogether the poor, sentimental, insincere, mendicant animal so largely abounding in the more beaten highways of Italy. Mr. Lear secured a thoroughly honest guide. Little public board and lodging for even an easily-contented English artist and gentleman is to be found in many of the places opened to view by the pencil of our author. He was thrown during his tour almost exclusively on private hospitality. Yet we perpetually read of the attentants of the gentry and farmers on whom the Englishman was quartered refusing a gratuity at parting.—Peaked hats—our author assures us—instead of being the universal Calabrian head-gear, flourish only in one peculiar district. If bandits there be, our English Rose was unmolested by them. In short, a pleasanter and more tempting record of autumn holidays has not lately been added to the traveller's library of light reading.

On the 25th of July 1847, Mr. Lear begins, "we set sail for Reggio from Messina, and soon the lemon-coloured forts of Zancle were far behind us on the deep blue sea." Every page that follows in the journals thus commenced has its own bit of picture and colour. In page 11 Mr. Lear's guide makes his appearance.—

"A muletter engaged for an indefinite time: the expense for both guide and quadruped being six carlini daily; and if we sent him back from any point of our journey, it was agreed that his charges should be defrayed until he reached Reggio. Our man, a grave tall fellow of more than fifty years of age, and with a good expression of countenance, was called Ciccio, and we explained to him that our plan was to do always just as we pleased—going straight a-head or stopping to sketch, without reference to any law but our own pleasure; to all which he replied by a short sentence ending with—'Dògo; d'ghi, d'ghi, d'ghi, dà'—a collection of sounds of frequent recurrence in Calabrese lingo, and the only definite portion of that speech we could ever perfectly master. What the 'Dògo' was we never knew, though it was an object of our keenest search throughout the tour to ascertain if it were animal, mineral, or vegetable. Afterwards, by constant habit, we arranged a sort of conversational communication with friend Ciccio, but we never got on well unless we said 'Dògo sì,' or 'Dògo no,' several times as an *ad libitum* appoggiatura, winding up with 'D'ghi, d'ghi, d'ghi, dà,' which seemed to set all right. Ciccio carried a gun, but alas! wore no pointed hat; nothing but a Sicilian long blue cap. Our minds had received a fearful shock by the conviction forced on them during our three days' stay at Reggio, namely, that there are no pointed hats in the first or southern province of Calabria."

From a subsequent page we extract a vignette in which one of the half-hundred noticeable halting-places sketched by Mr. Lear is brought before us with a few simple yet striking touches.—

"On waking from our siesta, the sun was already low, but I rushed out to get at least one recollection of this curious Calabrian home, and though surrounded by wondering gazers, I contrived to do so before it actually grew dark. It is a wild scene; the shattered houses still hang ruinously over the shivered clay sides of the mighty torrent-track, a broad sweeping line of white stone, far, far winding through the valley below; above rise the high hills we have to cross to-morrow, half in golden light, half in purple shadow; and among the topmost furrows and chasms sparkles the little village of San Lorenzo—at once signs of human life made more striking by their contrast with the solitude around."

At Condofuri Mr. Lear began to fall in with originals.—

"Condofuri, a little village, wedged in a nook between two hills, the torrent at its feet, and the mountain mass of big Apennine threateningly above it, was at length reached, and the house of Don Giuseppe Tropicano discovered. Alas! the master was away at the Marina, or Scala, and our appearance threw his old sister into such a state of alarm, that we speedily perceived all hope of lodging and dinner was at an end. We stood humbly on the steps of the old lady's house, and entreated her only to read the letter we had brought—but not she! she would have nothing to say to us. 'Sono femmina,' 'Sono femmina,' she constantly declared—a fact we had never ventured to doubt in spite of her immoderate size and ugliness.—'Sono femmina, e non so niente.' No persuasions could soften her, so we were actually forced to turn away in hunger and disgust. As for Ciccio, he merely took his short pipe from his lips, and said 'Son Turchi—d'ghi, dà.'"

At Palizzi the party was still deeper in what may be called "the bowels" of primitive Calabrian life.—

"The streets of Palizzi, through which no Englishman perhaps had as yet descended, were swarming with perfectly naked, berry-brown children, and before I reached the taverna I could hardly make my way through the gathering crowd of astonished mabogany Cupids. The taverna was but a single dark room, its walls hung with portraits of little

saints, and its furniture a very filthy bed, with a crimson velvet gold-fringed canopy, containing an unclothed ophthalmic baby, an old cat, and a pointer dog; all the rest of the chamber being loaded with rolls of linen, guns, gourds, pears, hats, glass tumblers, puppies, jugs, sieves, &c.; still it was a better resting-place than the hut at Condofuri, inasmuch as it was free from many intruders. Until P— came, and joined with me in despatching a feeble dinner of eggs, figs and cucumber, wine and snow, I sat, exhibited and displayed for the benefit of the landlord, his wife, and family, who regarded me with unmingled amazement, saying perpetually, 'O donde siete?'—'O che fai?'—'O chi sei?' And, indeed, the passage of a stranger through these outlandish places is so unusual an occurrence, that on no principle but one can the aborigines account for your appearance. 'Have you no rocks, no towns, no trees in your own country? Are you not rich? Then what can you wish here?—here, in this place of poverty and incommodo? What are you doing? Where are you going?' You might talk for ever; but you could not convince them you are not a political agent sent to spy out the nakedness of the land, and masking the intentions of your government under the thin veil of portraying scenes in which they see no novelty and take no delight. Going out to explore the lower part of the town, I could not resist making a sketch of its wonderful aspect from below; the square towering rock of Palizzi seems to fill the whole scene, while the houses are piled up from the stream in a manner defying all description. But to transfer all this to paper was neither easy nor agreeable; the afternoon sun reflected from the crags of the close and narrow valley, making it like an oven, besides that every available bit of standing ground is so nearly covered with intractable cactus-bushes as to be utterly vexatious; and, add to their alarming prickles, and the frying heat, that the stream was full of soaking hemp, the poisonous stench of which was intolerable, and that all the juvenile unclothed population of the town came and sat over-against me, and it may be perceived, that to sketch in Palizzi, though it be truly a wonder in its way, is indeed a pursuit of knowledge under great difficulties."

At Staiti, the universal culture and cherishing of silk-worms proved little less disgusting to our travellers—as a plague of nauseous and heavy odours—than a certain boiling of tallow encountered by Mr. T. A. Trollope in a small Norman town or village, and described with horrible gusto, was abominable to that lively tourist.—Pietrapennata seems to yield Italian forest scenery of the highest quality:—glades, vistas, prospects, and individual studies rivalling those to be found in such profusion in Titian's country—the *Pays de Cadore*. At Santa Maria di Polsi our journalist was treated to a storm in a lonely monastery, grim and wild enough to have struck terror into the heart of one of Mrs. Radcliffe's pursued heroines. He and his travelling companion, too, were attended in the refectory, and throughout the rest of the evening, by two monstrous watch-dogs, bearing the peaceful names of Assassino and Saraceno. By way of set-off to these romantic objects, they received amusing information from the *Superiore* touching their own little island at home.—

"The hospitable father asked a world of questions, and made many comments upon us and upon England in general, for the benefit of his fellow-recluses. 'England,' said he, 'is a very small place, although thickly inhabited. It is altogether about the third part of the size of the city of Rome. The people are a sort of Christians, though not exactly so. Their priests, and even their bishops, marry, which is incomprehensible, and most ridiculous. The whole place is divided into two equal parts by an arm of the sea, under which there is a great tunnel, so that it is all like one piece of dry land. Ah—che celebre tunnel!'"

At Rocella, which is famous for its fruits, they found their hospitable hosts touchy and dogmatic as regards the misery of England in

this article. On being assured that we islanders had not one poor pippin or berry to bless ourselves with, Mr. Lear, like a bold Briton, brought up our gooseberries and greengages to confound the family Nanni withal.—

"E che cosa sono Gooseberries e Gringhegi?" said the whole party, in a rage; 'non ci sono queste cose—sono sogni.' So we ate our supper in quiet, convinced almost that we had been telling lies; that gooseberries were unreal and fictitious; greengages a dream."

At Gioiosa, grave circumstances threw a cloud over their welcome.—

"The house of the Baron Rivettini, to whom we had letters, was large and imposing, but the Baron was not within, and the servants, with none of that stranger-helping alacrity of hospitality, so remarkable in more northern provinces of the Regno di Napoli, appeared too much amazed at the sudden arrival of 'due forestieri,' to do anything but contemplate us; and, to speak truth, neither our appearance, considering we had toiled through some rain and much dirt all the afternoon, nor our suite, consisting of a man and a horse, were very indicative of being 'comme il faut.' With difficulty we obtained leave to rest in a sort of ante-office, half stable, half kitchen, while a messenger carried our letter of introduction to the Baron Rivettini. When he returned, quoth he, 'The Baron is playing at cards, and cannot be interrupted; but, as there is no locanda in the town, you may sleep where you are.' Unwashed, hungry, and tired as we were, and seeing that there was nothing but an old rug by way of furniture in this part of the Baron's premises, we did not feel particularly gratified by this permission, the more that P— was rather unwell, and I feared he might have an attack of fever; neither did the domestics offer us caffè, or any other mitigation of our wayfaring condition. 'Is there no caffè?'—'Non c'è.'—'No wine?'—'Non c'è.'—'No light?'—'Non c'è.' It was all 'Non c'è.' So said I, 'Show me the way to the house where the Baron is playing at cards.' But the proposal was met with a blank silence, wholly unpropitious to our hopes of a night's lodging; and it was not until after I had repeated my request several times, that a man could be persuaded to accompany me to a large palazzo at no great distance, the well-lighted lower story of which exhibited offices, barrels, sacks, mules, &c., all indicative of the thriving merchant. In a spacious salone on the first floor sat a party playing at cards, and one of them a minute gentleman, with a form more resembling that of a sphere than any person I ever remember to have seen, was pointed out to me as the Baron by the shrinking domestic who had thus far piloted me. But excepting by a single glance at me, the assembled company did not appear aware of my entrance, nor, when I addressed the Baron by his name, did he break off the thread of his employment, otherwise than by saying, 'Uno, due, tre,—signore, sì,—quattro, cinque,—servo sue,—fanno quindici.'—'Has your Excellency received an introductory letter from the Cavalier da Nava?' said I.—'Cinque, sei,—sì, signore,—fanno undici,' said the Baron, timidly. This, thought I, is highly mysterious. 'Can I and my travelling companion lodge in your house, Signor Baron, until to-morrow?'—'Tre e sei fanno none,' pursued the Baron, with renewed attention to the game. 'Ma perché, signore?'—'Perché there is no inn in this town; and, perché I have brought you a letter of introduction,' rejoined I.—'Ah, sì sì sì, signore, pray favour me by remaining at my house.—Two and seven are nine—eight and eleven are nineteen.' And again the party went on with the Giuoco. * * * As usual, we rose before sunrise. 'O Dio! perché?' said the diminutive Baron Rivettini, who was waiting outside the door, lest perhaps we might have attempted to pass through the keyhole. A suite of large drawing-rooms was thrown open, and thither caffè was brought with the most punctilious ceremony. My suspicions of last night were confirmed by the great precision with which our passports were examined, and by the minute manner in which every particular relating to our eyes, noses, and chins, was written down; nor was it until after endless interrogatories and more 'perché's than are imaginable, that we were released. But our usual practice of

taking a small piece of bread with our coffee renewed the universal surprise and distrust of our hosts. 'Pancè!' said the Baron, 'perchè pancè?' 'O Cielo!'—'I never take sugar,' said I—, as some was offered him.—'Sant' Antonio, non prendete zucchero?' 'Perchè?' 'O Dio! perchè mai non prendete zucchero?'—'We want to make a drawing of your pretty little town,' said I; and, in spite of a perfect hurricane of 'perchès,' out we rushed, followed by the globular Baron, in the most lively state of alarm, down the streets, across the river on stepping-stones, and up the opposite bank, from the steep cliffs of which, overhung with oak foliage, there is a beautiful view of Gioiosa on its rock. 'O per carità! O Cielo! O San Pietro! cosa mai volete fare?' said the Baron, as I prepared to sit down.—'I am going to draw for half-an-hour,' said I.—'Ma—perchè?' And down I sat, working hard for nearly an hour, during all which time the perplexed Baron walked round and round me, occasionally uttering a melancholy—'O signore, ma perchè?'—'Signore Baron,' said I, when I had done my sketch, 'we have no towns in our country so beautifully situated as Gioiosa!'—'Ma perchè?' quoth he. I walked a little way, and paused to observe the bee-eaters, which were flitting through the air above me, and under the spreading oak branches.—'Per l'amor del Cielo, cosa guardate? Cosa mai osservate?' said the Baron.—'I am looking at those beautiful blue birds.'—'Perchè? Perchè? Perchè?'—'Because they are so very pretty, and because we have none like them in England.'—'Ma perchè? perchè?'—'It was evident that do or say what I would, some mystery was connected with each action and word; so that, in spite of the whimsical absurdity of these eternal what fors and whys, it was painful to see that, although our good little host strove to give scope to his hospitable nature, his stay caused more anxiety than pleasure. Besides, his whole demeanour so strongly reminded one of Croaker.—'Do you force anything, child? You look as if you did. I think if anything was to be foreseen, I have as sharp a look out as another,—that it was no easy task to preserve a proper degree of gravity. His curiosity, however, was to be tried still further; for, having heard that Gioiosa was famous for the manufacture of sugar-plums or confetti, we had resolved to take some hence to Gerace, to give to little Cicillo and Maria Scaglione; but when we asked where confetti could be purchased, the poor Baron became half breathless with astonishment and suspense, and could only utter from time to time, 'Non è possibile! Non è possibile! O gran Cielo! Confetti? confetti? Perchè confetti! Non è possibile.' We proved, however, that sugar-plums were determined to have, and forthwith got a direction to a confectioner's, whither we went and bought an immense quantity, the mystified Baron following us to the shop and back, saying continually 'Perchè, perchè, confetti? O Cielo! perchè?' We then made all ready to start with the faithful Ciccia, and, not unwillingly took leave of the Palazzo Rivettini, the anxious Baron thrusting his head from the window, and calling out, 'Ma fermatevi, perchè? Perchè andatevi? Statevi a pranzo, perchè? Perchè ucelli? Perchè disegni? Perchè confetti? Perchè, perchè, perchè, perchè?' till the last 'perchè' was lost in distance as we passed once more round the rock, and crossed the river Romano."

It seems that some heavings of the Sicilian and Neapolitan Revolution of 1848 were already felt beneath the surface in these remote districts,—and that the poor simple gentry saw a spy in every stranger, and a dark political purpose in Mr. Lear's portfolio. The Baron's fears, however, have filled a pleasant page, and might furnish the catchword for a character in a comedy had Naples now its Goldonis and Notas who were permitted to entertain the public with scenes shadowing forth the manners of the day and the interests of the hour.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

Beatrice; or, the Unknown Relatives. By Catharine Sinclair. 3 vols.—So many ladies—Papist and Protestant—have of late exchanged the tongue for the pen in doctrinal controversy,—and so ill does

the deepest theologian among them abide criticism or remonstrance,—that without any Salique disrespect to a sex which has proved itself so graceful, individual and vigorous in authorship, we some time ago determined to eschew the so-called religious novel lest by perpetual analysis and animadversion we might be adding another coal to a fire about which far too many feeble and unconsecrated hands are already busy. Therefore, we shall deal with Miss Sinclair's new tale in a few brief paragraphs. As in her earlier novels, our authoress is improbable in incident and illogical in her deductions of effect from cause. How staunch Protestants such as she describes in her first chapter—so broadly awake, moreover, to the abominations of the Scarlet Lady—should allow persons wearing a Cain's mark so openly as Mrs. Loraine and Mr. Talbot, to sit down among them and unmask their batteries of Jesuitism—is wonderful. But more wonderful still is it to see how everybody who was so easily perverted is as easily converted back by the might of the very old lady who was so powerless when the Papists began their gambols! To speak one grave word:—no reader can, for an instant, doubt whether this journal leans towards the cause of Absolutism or of Private Judgment;—but our distaste generally to tales of the class to which Miss Sinclair's belongs is, as our readers know, very great. On the weakness of this particular specimen, for that reason, it is unnecessary that we should here dwell. The Rome-ward bound would, we believe, go to Rome just as fervently—the Rome-sick would return thence just as readily—had 'Beatrice,' with all its devices and mysteries, never been penned.

The Silent Footsteps: a Tale.—This is a pious little story of crime and forgiveness, dedicated "in all humility," prefaced by the appeal of a "trembling" beginning, but containing occasional affectations which, we should be apt to say, are neither humble nor tremulous, did we not recollect how theatrical children can be ere worldliness has taught them how to act,—and how the common parlance of the uneducated author (the familiar correspondence of a Burns for instance) is apt to be fuller of sesquipedalian words and magnificent classical allusions than the talk or the writings of hoary scholars and philosophers weighed down with too much learning.

Annals and Legends of Calais; with Sketches of Emigré Notabilities, and Memoir of Lady Hamilton. By Robert Bell Calton.—This book is a strange historical jumble; commencing with the siege of Calais in 1346-7, and then going back, in the eighth chapter, to "its remote history" under the Counts of Boulogne, Flanders, and Guisnes,—while in the ninth we find ourselves in company with Cardinal Wolsey and other notabilities of the sixteenth century. The story of the siege and reduction of Calais is of course taken from Froissart; and for the subsequent history and usages of the town, the author is largely indebted to the chronicle of Richard Turpin, lately published by the Camden Society.—From what source he obtained his earlier history, is doubtful; since he mentions one "Eustache" as having married "Marie, the daughter of Malcolm, King of Scotland, and Margaret, daughter of the King of England,"—we should like to know who he was,—and as also having a daughter named "Machilde," the writer apparently being wholly ignorant that this was no other than one of our own queens—Maude, the wife of Stephen. We are told, too, that a lady of the same high family married an English gentleman known by the romantic name of "Albert the Wild Bear";—and also that the Duke of Gloucester, uncle to Richard the Second, and who was assassinated at Calais, had Elinor Cobham for his wife! The memorials of "English notabilities"—none of them in the least worthy of honourable note—given by our author, close with an elaborate biography of Lady Hamilton, written very much in the style, and certainly exhibiting about as high a degree of moral feeling, as those novels in penny numbers which each week improve the tastes and morals of our rising population.

The Laurel and the Palm. By Mrs. Challice.—How this title refers to this book—which is the story of a neglected girl,—it would be hard even for

Mrs. Challice herself, we suspect, to make clear to us.—The tale is so fragmentary as to be difficult to follow,—very romantic,—and having certain episodes and paragraphs which seem to denote that an addition to the over-stocked library of religious fiction was meditated in its production.

Canadian Crusoes; a Tale of the Rice Lake Plains. By Catharine Parr Traill. Edited by Agnes Strickland. Illustrated by Harvey.—The Crusoes are here three children lost in the forest, who contrive to sustain themselves and to enjoy life sufficiently during the interval which elapses betwixt their loss and their recovery by their parents. The natural history of the scene in which the tale is laid is familiar to Mrs. Traill; and the invention has a hold and an interest which are perennial. Ere long we shall be having Australian Crusoes:—meanwhile these, the youngest of that long line of which *Philip Quarr* is patriarch, are neither the least creditable nor the least entertaining of the family.

Account of the Public Prison of Valencia; with Observations. By Capt. Maconochie.—This brochure is made up of two long extracts,—one from Mr. Hoskins's 'Spain as it is,' the other from a report by Don Manuel Montesinos, Inspector-general of Prisons to the Queen of Spain,—and of sundry pertinent remarks by our zealous prison reformer. The Prison of Valencia appears to afford a strong corroboration of the soundness of the mark system,—on something like which system it is conducted. The great fact insisted on is this,—that under the mild treatment in force, in a prison averaging a thousand prisoners all the year round, there has not been a single recommittal for three years past,—while for the previous ten years the recommitments averaged only one per cent. Under the severe discipline practised in our own capital the recommitments amount to upwards of thirty per cent.

Egmont, a Tragedy: Götz von Berlichingen, a Drama, by Goethe.—*The Wonderful History of Peter Schlemihl, by Chamisso.*—*Wilhelm Tell, a Drama, by Schiller.* The German Text, edited with complete Vocabularies, by Falck-Lebahn.—These are editions prepared for the use of learners who read without a master; and they will be found convenient for that purpose. In each the text is followed by a glossary, wherein not only the sense of every particular phrase, but also the dictionary meaning of most of the several words, is given in good English. With such aids, and a previous knowledge of the grammar, a student will find no difficulty in these masterpieces. It may be regretted that the praise due to Mr. Lebahn for the care and skill with which they are adapted for self-tuition should be qualified by the appearance in his edition of a quantity of the merest newspaper puffery, which is obtruded on the purchaser in a way more likely to raise than to remove doubts of the value of the work so laden with borrowed commendations. In every volume the list of "opinions of the press" is opened at the first page with a fulsome "general notice" signed "J. Campbell, D.D., British Banner," in which, among other things, the reverend critic affirms that "rarely has so much enthusiasm (as the editor's) been so utterly divested of everything like quackery." Who is responsible for binding up with the text, at the beginning and end of each volume, a series of paragraphs exactly on a level with the "testimonials" in favour of a patent medicine? It would have been better for Mr. Lebahn's credit—which might safely depend on the substantial character of his labours—to have suppressed both the reverend Doctor's eulogy and the puffs which follow in open contradiction of it. Books that are worth anything can make their way without vulgar placards on their title-pages; and those which are worthless will not live long upon false advertisements.

The Home of the Workman. By A. P. Paton.—This is a rhapsody, delivered before the members of a 'Mechanics' Institute in the North, on the text "There's no place like home." The author evidently means well, and hopes to do service as a sanitary reformer; but we can scarcely expect that his flights will effect any part of the end which he has in view.

The Chemistry of Gold, &c. By J. Scoffern,

M.B.—This is one of the numerous series of compilations which have lately been published to meet the requirement of the gold-seeking emigrant. It contains much information which must be useful to all concerned in the labours of the gold-field,—but it is not such a work as should have been prepared as "the gold-seeker's chemical guide." The practice of wholesale piracy from the works of other authors is carried out in this little book in a very striking manner. A large section is devoted to the natural history of gold. The modes of mining and washing—geology and paleontology—are also embraced:—so that, the chemical section is reduced to a comparatively small space.

The Assayer's Guide; or, Practical Directions to Assayers, Miners and Smelters, &c. By Oscar M. Lieber.—This is really a valuable little book. Mr. Lieber was geologist to the State of Mississippi: and appears to be fully conversant with the subject on which he writes. The descriptions of the assays are very simply and satisfactorily given,—and a series of plates fully describes the necessary apparatus. This is one of the works,—of which America has lately produced many,—of a thorough practical character, which might be imitated by ourselves with advantage.

Thoughts on Aerial Travelling, and on the Means of Propelling Balloons. By James Nye.—Everybody has heard of the poor wretch who was shot out of a huge cannon:—but it remained for Mr. Nye, "author of the Short-hand Dictionary," to discover that sitting astride a cannon-ball would be a pleasant and convenient mode of travelling. This speculator has at least "the courage of his opinions." His first proposition is, that birds do use their wings to fly with,—whence he infers, that because a man has no wings it is unreasonable to conclude that he could not fly were he to choose:—though Mr. Nye recommends him not to desire that power, because it is unsocial, and would interfere with conversation and other of the amenities of travel. His next proposition is, that a cannon-ball, or a sky-rocket, is a motive power applicable to the purposes of locomotion. Mr. Nye has read that an arrow, shot from a tower, has been made to carry a letter to friend or foe; whence he concludes, that a cannon-ball "might be employed as a fleet and manageable steed for drawing our flying chariots." Having established these propositions to his own full content, he describes the practical issues to which he would turn them, in the form of a plan for being shot across the Channel in an elliptical balloon by a succession of Congreve rockets. We should seriously object to being carried over sea by M. Lemaitre's bridge; but we would rather take our chance with his sunk barges and elevated balloons than be shot off with Mr. Nye and his Congreve rockets.

The True Principle of the Law of Storms, practically arranged for both Hemispheres. By James Sedgwick.—This book consists simply of the rules prescribed for avoiding the vortex of a hurricane:—which are clearly illustrated by explanatory diagrams.

The Country-House.—The Piggy.—The Ox and the Dairy.—The Poultry-Yard.—These books will be found valuable to those who are interested in the subjects of which they treat. They are published by Mr. Charles Knight,—and form part of a series of volumes devoted to the illustrations of subjects connected with the country-house. They contain a variety of useful illustrations,—and are sold at the low price of one shilling each.

The Cottage Gardener's Dictionary. By George W. Johnson.—This dictionary is not intended for cottagers only,—as might be inferred from its name; but, all who have houses with gardens which they wish to manage for themselves will find it of great service. It gives not only an account of all gardening operations and implements, but also descriptions of all plants which, either for ornament or utility, are introduced into gardens. The insects which attack plants are also described,—and of some of them figures are given. The book is truly a compendium of all that is needed in the garden, and of information on the many points of interest which its management involves.

The Flora of Liverpool. By Joseph Dickinson, M.A., M.D.—Natural History is deeply indebted

to those inquirers who undertake to chronicle the existence of minerals, plants, or animals in a particular locality. Although at first sight it might not seem necessary that this should be done for the advancement of science in several localities of the same country,—yet when we come to examine the general laws of the sciences which constitute Natural History, it will be found that they are true only in as far as they are founded on minute and accurate observation. The laws which regulate the distribution of plants on the surface of the earth are yet but imperfectly understood,—and it is by the accumulation of observations such as are contained in this 'Flora' of a particular district, that they will ever be perfectly made out. The district around Liverpool seems rich in plants; and Dr. Dickinson has added one feature to his 'Flora' which makes it almost peculiar amongst similar works, in that he has given a list of the Mosses found in the same district.

School Economy. By Jolinger Symons.—A little volume devoted to a discussion of the best modes of establishing and conducting schools, and of making them useful to the working classes. Like most reformers who have of late years turned their attention to the education of the lower orders, Mr. Symons argues in favour of a combined system of industrial and moral training as the only one to meet the requirements of the case.

Dr. Feiler's Handbuch der Englischen Sprache—is an excellent manual for Germans who wish to learn English. The author's plan is judicious, and his knowledge of the niceties of our idiom exact to a degree rarely attained by foreigners. Even in this country such a work may be usefully consulted by advanced students of German. The precise force of German phrases and particles can hardly be better learnt than by seeing them applied as equivalents to English by a master of both languages.

The Importance of Literature to Men of Business: a Series of Addresses delivered at various Popular Institutions. Revised and Corrected by the Authors.—A certain interest attaches to a collection of this kind, notwithstanding the necessary monotony of the themes. The addresses constitute a set of studies on the value of popular education taken from points of view as widely separated as is possible amongst intellectual men. They are well selected as to their authors, and contain as little that is local and ephemeral as could have been expected in discourses constructed for the hour and the meridian of their delivery.

Records of the School of Mines and of Science applied to the Arts. Vol. I., Part I.—This volume, published under the orders of the Lords of the Treasury, consists of the inaugural and introductory Lectures to the courses for the session of the present year at the Museum of Practical Geology in Piccadilly,—which were noticed by us at the time of their delivery. In their present form they comprise a body of valuable information in connexion with mining as a science and art, very compactly put together.

Men's Duties to Women.—Evidently written by a foreigner possessing much knowledge of Continental life,—this book, in spite of many good things in it, is not likely to be of much use in this country. The domestic morals are not the same in London and in Paris,—and an argument good in one place is not necessarily either good or true in the other.

Among the reprints, translations, and books which require no particular notice at our hand, we have, a new and profusely illustrated edition of Mrs. Inchbald's ever popular *Simple Story*,—a second edition of Dr. Leech's *Suggestions on the Law of Lunacy and Lunatic Asylums*, with an Appendix, giving some account of the origin and progress of the lunatic asylum reform movement, and a copy of schedules for admission of patients,—and a new and illustrated reprint of the American work against slavery, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Messrs. Addy & Co. have added to their Grimm series the *Soaring Lark*, and other Stories, from the German—an excellent book for children. The new volume of the "Parlour Library" consists of Mr. James's *Gentleman of the Old School*. The third and concluding volume of Michaud's *History of the Crusades* has appeared:—as has also a translation of M. Vinet's

Pastoral Theology. Mr. Bentley has enriched his "Shilling Series" with some clever and readable *Sketches of English Character*, by Mrs. Gore.—Of books printed for the first time, we have, Parts I. and II. of the fourth volume, second series, of the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Literature*—one of the papers in which is, a contribution from Mr. Hallam, 'On the Chances of Hannibal at the Beginning of the Second Punic War,'—in which the historian maintains, with great show of reason, that when the Carthaginian came down into the plains of Lombardy the contest was in fact decided, though not at an end. *Papers for the Schoolmaster* seems to be a collection of periodical papers issued in Glasgow for the benefit of teachers and governesses. Mr. Althous has written a small volume, called *The Scripture Teacher's Assistant, with Explanations and Lessons designed for Schools and Families.* The *Report of the Commissioners of Public Health in Ireland on the Epidemic of 1846—1851* tells the whole story of the terrible visitation which that country suffered from in the years of cholera and famine.—To these titles we will add, *Colloquial Soliloquies; being a Day's serious Talk on various Subjects*, by one who took all the talk to himself,—*The Australian Gold-Fields*, and the *best Means of Discriminating Gold from all other Metals and Minerals*, a report of a lecture by Mr. Pepper, delivered at the Polytechnic Institution,—*The Eternal Duration of Future Punishment is not inconsistent with the Divine Attributes of Justice and Mercy*, a thesis maintained by Mr. G. M. Gorham,—*Liturgy and Church History*,—and a *Catalogue (in French) of the Exhibition of Works of Art this year at Antwerp*.—No. IX. of Mr. Orr's re-issue of the *Portrait Gallery* has appeared. It contains portraits of Descartes, Blake, Cromwell, Claude, Rembrandt, and Milton.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Arthur's (T. S.) *Agnes the Possessed*, 22mo. 1s. 6d. cl.
 Baldwin's (E.) *Outlines of English History*, new edit. 18mo. 1s.
 Bland's *Hints on the Form of Ships*, 18mo. 1s. cl. (Weale.)
 Bohn's *Classical Library*, 'The Greek Anthology,' 2s. cl.
 Bohn's *Illustrated Library*, 'Victories of Wellington and British Armies,' 5s. cl.
 Bohn's *Scientific Library*, 'Bridgewater Treatise, Whewell's Astronomy,' 3s. 6d. cl.
 Bohn's *Standard Library*, 'Foster's Life and Correspondence,' Vol. I., 7s. 6d. cl.
 Bonnell's (J.) *Life*, 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.
 Clarke (H. W.) *Illustration of the Morning Service*, 8vo. 10s. 6d. cl.
 Conzelmann, or, Comfort for the Afflicted, 6th edit. 8vo. 4s. 6d. cl.
 Corner's *Missi History of Germany*, new edit. 18mo. 3s. 6d. cl.
 Dyer's *Master (The)*, 2nd edit. 18mo. 3s. 6d. cl.
 Eyre's (Rev. C.) *Fall of Adam*, from Milton, 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.
 Flower's (Rev. W. B.) *Church and the Ministry*, post 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
 Foster's (Rev. C.) *One Primæval Language*, Part 2, 8vo. 2s. cl.
 Goldbacher's (The) *Novel*, 3 vols. post 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
 Heygate's *Godfrey Davenant*, 2nd edit. 18mo. 2s. 6d. cl.
 Journal of a Summer Tour, complete, 8vo. 7s. cl.
 Lady Geraldine Seymour, a Tale, post 8vo. 10s. 6d. bds.
 Lepsius's (Dr.) *Letters from Egypt*, 8vo. 12s. cl.
 Looking unto Jesus, 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
 National Illustrated Library, 'Pfeiffer's Visit to the Holy Land,' 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.
 New (The) *Whole Duty of Man*, new edit. 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.
 Paget's *Tales of the Village*, one vol. new edit. 8vo. 2s. 6d. cl.
 Patterson's (W.) *Practical Statistics*, 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl.
 Popular Educator (The), Vol. I., 4to. 4s. 6d. cl.
 Railway Library, 'Goldsmith's Violets,' 18mo. 1s. bds.
 Readable Fables, 'Wellington, the Story of his Life,' 18mo. 1s. bds.
 Robertson's (J.) *History of the Jews*, 18mo. 1s. 6d. cl.
 Reid's (Dr.) *Life*, by Wilson, 2nd edit. 12mo. 4s. cl.
 Strauss's *German Reader*, 18mo. 1s. cl. (Weale.)
 Svedenborg, Gems from, by Prescott, 22mo. 3s. cl.
 Taaf's *History of the Order of St. John*, Vols. I. and II., 8vo. 25s.
 Todd's *Cyclopædia of Anatomy*, Vol. 4, royal 8vo. 70s. cl.
 Traveller's Library, 'Gieck's Leipzig Campaign,' 8vo. 3s. 6d. cl.
 Waverley Novels, Library Edition, Vol. 6, 8vo. 9s. cl.

MEETING OF GERMAN NATURALISTS AT WIESBADEN.

THIS Society, the prototype of our British Association, has just held its twenty-ninth annual meeting in the flourishing little town of Nassau; which was well calculated, as well from the extent of its public buildings and their adaptation to scientific *réunions* and social purposes, as also from the geological interest and natural beauties of the surrounding country, for the accommodation and entertainment of such a numerous body of scientific strangers. A Correspondent, who was present, has furnished us with a summary,—which, as following close on the account of our own British meeting, will probably have an interest for our scientific readers.

On the 17th of September the members began to pour into the town from all quarters of Germany; each railway train bringing its own quota of these welcome visitors, in honour of whose approach the hotels and many of the public buildings and private houses were decked out with the national flag waving from the doorways and roofs.

To be a privileged member of this Association, with the right of speaking and voting in the meetings, it is necessary to have written some work bearing on natural history, physics, or medicine;—but to become a temporary associate, with the right of being present as a listener merely at all the scientific meetings, as well as of taking part in all the festive social *réunions*, is free to every one on the very moderate payment of two Prussian dollars,—equivalent to scarcely six shillings of our money. Hence, when the annual meeting takes place in a town like this, numbers of the middle and upper classes of inhabitants eagerly join it, as well as all scientific strangers who may happen to be in the neighbourhood. The objects of the Society, like those of the British Association, are, the formation of a mutual acquaintance between the scientific men of Germany,—and the facilitation of an early interchange of their ideas in reference to all new discoveries. The numbers who this year took part in the matter amounted nearly to 800. Of the Germans present there were considerably more than a hundred names honourably known in the records of science,—and amongst the foremost may be named the octogenarian, Von Buch, Prof. Rose, the great analytic chemist, Von Carnall, Inspector of Mines, from Berlin, Prof. Haidinger, Director of the Imperial Geological Institute, Von Hauer, Von Ettingshausen, and Prof. Jäger, from Vienna, Von Leonhard and Chelius from Heidelberg, Nees von Esenbeck, the great systematic botanist, from Breslau, Gerlach, Will, and Heyfelder, from Erlangen, Wöhler, Baum, Lücke, and Weber, from Göttingen, Texter, from Würzburg, Hohl and Blazius of Halle, Forchhammer and Hinly of Kiel, Seyfer of Stuttgart, Fichte, Vierordt, and Schlossberger of Tübingen, Schimper of Schwitzingen, Schmaltz of Dresden, Bach of Boppard, Rau of Bern, Lombry of Iburg, Martin of Jena, Rossmässler of Leipzig, Lehmann of Hamburg, Weber and Budge from Bonn, Nasse from Marburg, Leuckhart, Vogel, Hoffmann, Eckhard, and Dieffenbach of Gießen, Schröter and Müller of Aix-la-Chapelle, Müller and the two Sandbergers of Wiesbaden, Schulz of Deidsheim, Prof. Stannius, Möser of Mayence, Adelmann of Dorpat, Spörex from Petersburg, Grüninger from Cairo, Remak, the physiologist, and a host of other names of equal significance.

England had about twenty representatives present:—including the names of Hamilton, Scoresby, Austen, Morier, Hoffmann, Lee, Hooker, Waller, &c. France had about nine or ten:—of whom the most conspicuous were, Lucien Bonaparte the Prince of Canino, Count d'Isaard-Cauvengues, Marchal, Rigaud, Joly of Toulouse, &c.

The names of two courageous ladies were on the list of the associates; and very many others, accompanied by their male friends, graced the side benches and galleries during the general meetings, and took their seats at the festive board on the occasions of the three public dinners.

The first general sitting took place on the morning of the 18th, in the great room of the Kursaal. The President, Dr. Fresenius of Wiesbaden, opened the proceedings by a brief Address on the objects of the Society and the advantages offered by Wiesbaden for their promotion:—after which the Rules were read by Dr. Braun. A Report was next made on the intended monument to the memory of Oken in Jena.—Von Leonhard read a paper 'On the Advantages derivable from a careful Examination of the Products and Refuse of the Smelting House in reference to Geological hypotheses,'—and was followed by Dr. F. Sandberger with a Report of the Geological Society of the Middle Rhine,—and by Dr. Spengler 'On the Efficacy of the Waters of Ems in Bronchitis, &c.'—The business of the day closed with a paper by Dr. Guido Sandberger 'On the Study of Organic Remains.'

On Sunday the 19th a public excursion was made down the Rheingau,—the railway and steamboat being put at the disposition of the learned strangers gratuitously;—and on two subsequent days *fêtes champêtres* were given in their honour by the townspeople, and by the Duke of Nassau, in the picturesque sites of the Nersberg and the Plattz, with a profusion of the far-famed Stein-

berger and other generous growths of the valley of the Rhine.

On Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday Sectional Meetings were held from eight to one o'clock.

On Tuesday and Friday, as on the previous Saturday, General Meetings took place in the Kursaal:—in one of which Prof. Haidinger gave an interesting account of the recently formed Imperial Geological Institute of Vienna, of which he is Director. One of the first objects of this Institute will be, the production of a series of geological maps of the Austrian dominions:—the whole of which gigantic undertaking may be completed, it is to be hoped, within thirty years,—beginning with Austria Proper, and proceeding gradually to the Italian, Hungarian, and Bohemian dominions. In the promotion of this plan, the Professor ascribed much credit to the exertions of his countrymen and associates Von Hauer, Von Ettingshausen, &c.

Prof. Nees von Esenbeck, of Breslau, delivered an Address in honour of the 200th anniversary of the Leopold-Caroline Academy of Science,—consisting of a brief account of its origin and labours;—and was followed with a clever paper by Dr. Posner 'On the Influence which the Medical Profession ought to exercise on the Sanitary condition of their Fellow Men,'—a point on which the future welfare of the human race so mainly turns.

At the Third General Meeting (Friday), papers were read by Prof. Nees 'On the Responsibilities of the State in regard to Epidemics,'—which will be published in the Reports; by Herr Voltz 'On the Tertiary Basin of Mayence; and by Dr. Rossmässler 'On the Importance of multiplying Associations for Scientific Objects.'

For the Meeting of the following year the university town of Tübingen was fixed on.

In the Sectional Meetings the original communications and discussions were so numerous, that we must limit ourselves to a partial mention of them.

In the Physical Section,—Prof. Müller presented 'A Table of General Formulae for Crystallography,' Prof. Magnus 'On the Deviation of Projectiles,' Prof. Langsdorf 'On the Conducting Power of Silver,' Prof. Müller showed an Apparatus for displaying the Evolution of Caloric on the freezing of Water, and elucidating the formation of Hail, &c.

In the Chemical Section,—Prof. Von Heinz 'On Animal Fats,' Prof. Seybel 'On the Progress of Chemical Manufactures in Austria,' Prof. Schödlér 'On the Carbonization of Wood under Water,' Prof. Hoffmann 'On the Employment of Gas-burners in the Elementary Analysis of Organic Substances, &c.'

In the Geological Section, Prof. Zimmermann 'On very Recent Formations of Sulphur,' Prof. F. Sandberger 'On the Geology of Nassau,' Prof. Kurr 'On Fossil Human Teeth,'—considered, however, by Prof. Von Meyer to be, like other human fossil bones, probably post-diluvial. Prof. Klipstein 'On the Geological Formation of Hessa,' Prof. Austen 'On the Valley of the British Channel and Accumulations within it,' Prof. Dumont 'Comparison of the Geological Formations of England and Belgium,' Prof. Von Hauer 'On the Tertiary Formation of the Basin of Vienna,' Prof. Schwarzenberg 'On the Geology of Algiers, &c.' Prof. Von Ettingshausen 'On Filices, &c. in Coal Formation of Stradonitz, near Braun.' Prof. Desor 'On Parallel Phenomena produced by Diluvial and Glaciers in Scandinavia, Switzerland and North America,' Prof. Braun 'On Fossil Grapes at Salzhausen,' Prof. Von Meyer and Prof. Thiollière 'On Vertebrata' in the newly-discovered lithographic Slate of Cerin, in France. Prof. Forchhammer 'Proposed Formation of a Submarine Chart of the Mediterranean.' Prof. Lesquereux 'Formation of Turf, &c.'

In the Botanical Section,—Prof. Hoffmann 'On the Influence of River Boundaries on the Distribution of Plants,' Prof. Schimper 'On the Proposed Spirological Arrangement of Plants,' Prof. Fresenius 'On the Fungus of the Grape Disease,' Prof. Lehmann 'On the Development of Heat by the *Victoria Regina*,' Prof. Schuchert 'On the Multiplication of Orchideæ by Bulbs,' Prof.

Wirtgen 'On the Genus *Mentha*,' Prof. Hoffmann 'On the Red Fungus on the Potato in Westphalia,' Prof. Schenk 'On the Cultivation of the Silk-worm in Nassau,' Prof. Löhr 'On the Occurrence of South German Plants in the North, and vice versa,' Prof. Seemann 'On the Fatty Substance obtained from the Euphorbiaceous Plant, *Stillingia sebifera*, very largely used for Stearine Candles in England,' Prof. Brandis 'On Atmospheric Showers of small black round Fungus (*Sclerotium semen*) near Cologne.'

Zoology,—Prof. Lee 'On the Dependence in Mammalia of the Spinal Cord on the Brain,' Prof. Vierordt 'On the Facilitating of the Counting of Blood-globules,' Prof. Stilling 'On the Microscopic Structure of the Central Nervous Organs,' Prof. Gerlach 'On the Cutaneous Papillæ and newly-discovered Special Pyramidal Organs of Touch,'—contrary to Wagner, he discovers vascular ramifications in all of them. Prof. Hering 'On the Period of the Circulation'—above half-a-minute in the horse, not accelerated with respiration or beat of heart. Prof. Budge 'Influence on the Pupil of the Frog of the Section of the Anterior and Posterior Spinal Roots,' Prof. Moleschott, 'Diminution of Carbonic Acid in Respired Air, and of Red Globules in Blood, on removal of the Liver and Spleen in Frogs;—and on the 'Formation of Sugar in Animals dependent on the Liver,' Prof. Will 'On the Hair of Caterpillars,'—being tubes containing formic acid. Prof. Remak, 'Fœtal Development of Vertebrata,'—the flat germ of birds consists of three layers, sensorial, motor and glandular and intestinal. Prof. Schiörr 'Atrophy of Bone from Section of Nerves,' Prof. Meyer 'On the Microscopic Structure of the Nervous Fibres and Ganglia, and on the shortening of the Nerves in the Leech by a Muscular Sheath,' Prof. Waller 'On the Functions of the Ganglia and Spinal Marrow, as investigated by the Section of Spinal Roots,' Prof. Schlossberger 'On the Chemical Constitution of the Brain in different Animals and Ages,' Lucien Bonaparte 'On some New Species and Arrangement of Birds,' Prof. Rossmässler 'On the Necessity of an Anatomical Investigation of the Conchylia,' Prof. Calver 'On the Development of the Buccinum Matatum,'—wherein several ova go to the formation of one individual, whilst from the egg of the Tubularia, on the contrary, as shown by Beneden, several embryos come from one ovum. Prof. Joly 'On the real External Source of the Blue and Red Coloration of the Cocoon of the Silk-worm.'

Medical Section,—Prof. Rau, 'Gutta Serena Ear-tubes and Probes,' Prof. Greisinger, 'Typhus in Egypt'—characterized by bilious symptoms and by enlargement of spleen. Prof. Höfle, 'On Microscopic Fungus occurring in Mucous Exudations,' Prof. Naumann, 'On Exophthalmos in connexion with Enlargements of Thyroid and Heart,' Prof. Snell, 'Loss of Cutaneous Sensibility, frequent in the mentally deranged,'—18 cases of entire loss, 160 of partial. Prof. Erlenmeyer, 'On Derangements in the Sense of Touch, and their Relation to Mental Disease.'

THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION OF DENMARK.

Copenhagen, Sept. 13.

IN reviewing Mr. Laing's 'Denmark and the Duchies,' you appeared to be surprised at some of his conclusions with regard to General Education. In his previous work, 'On the Social State of Europe,' he had raised an educational phantom which even his Scandinavian predilections found it difficult to lay; and when he was compelled to admit the success of the Danish system of general education, reasons had to be adduced to show why the result should be happy for Denmark and yet revolutionary and miserable for Germany. I have not brought Mr. Laing's book with me; but I am sure that I do not err when I state his explanation of the difference to be, that the Prussian system of education is compulsory, while that of Denmark is voluntary. He explains, that Danish success is partly due to the Government following, and not creating, the demand for education,—and to its voluntary and non-gratuitous character.

The impression left upon my mind in reading his work was, that he was treating of the primary education of the mass of the population, and not of education limited to the higher classes. If my impression be correct, then he has been singularly unhappy in his information,—for the primary education of Denmark is compulsory, and chiefly gratuitous. It may be interesting to you, at a time when education attracts so much attention in England, to possess the observations of another educational traveller, who came here, in full faith of Mr. Laing's usual accuracy, to study the effects of a universal voluntary system of education. I shall therefore describe generally, so far as your limits will allow, the Danish system of public Primary and Secondary education.

The General Educational Law of Denmark is that of the 29th of July, 1814,—and the compulsory clauses are, article 17 for the country, and article 24 for the town law. By these, it is provided, that every parent, guardian, or householder shall send his children and servants who may be uninstructed to the Communal School, or in default be fined for every day during which they are absent. Imprisonment, with bread and water, or with hard labour, is a further penalty of disobedience to the law. These compulsory laws are only applicable to primary, and not at all to secondary, education. They are very seldom enforced, because their infraction is rarely attempted.

Each commune or parish establishes a school, which is supported by a special local rate. In most instances the education given is gratuitous,—but in some cases, when extra classes are given, a small charge of about two marks (or 9d.) a session is required. The education in these Primary Schools generally consists of reading and writing in Danish, arithmetic, history, and a little geography. Occasionally, German, English, and drawing are added,—but they must be paid for. Religious knowledge, according to the tenets of the Lutheran Church, is given in all, but is not compulsory on a Dissenter. Private schools and private tuition are freely allowed to compete with the public Communal Schools; still, the Government, or rather the School Commission, may demand proofs of their efficiency. All the Public Schools are under the general control of the Minister of Education; but practically, the localities in which they are placed have the entire management of the education and the appointment of the teachers, who are generally trained in the Government Normal Seminaries. The parish minister has a powerful voice in the management of the Communal School,—because, not only is he a member of the School Commission, but he is enjoined by the fundamental law to expound from the pulpit the benefits of education, and to see that those who come up for confirmation have good temporal as well as spiritual knowledge. In a country where this religious rite is considered as important as baptism, and is actually required as a certificate of character before a young person can obtain a situation, it is obvious that the "confirmation examination" becomes an important means of controlling the primary education.

The general effect of these regulations with regard to primary education is certainly good, although they are attended with some evils. One of these consists in the tendency of the gratuitous system of education to keep the Primary Schools to the minimum instruction required by law. All are taxed for the support of the Communal School, and the poor therefore aid in the education of the rich. Hence, they are inclined to protest against the augmentation of instruction, in order to keep the cost of the school as low as possible. This gratuitous instruction, which is not given in all, but in most of the Communal Schools, does not raise that love for education or appreciation of its value which is common with those who have to contribute something, however small, as a direct fee for a child's attendance at school. It is quite certain that every man in Denmark has been taught to read and write,—but it is not unfrequently found, that the value of this instruction is not recognized, and that the knowledge is wholly forgotten from disuse. It was frequent in the Holstein army to observe one soldier writing love

letters for various of his comrades. Sunday Schools, for temporal, and not for spiritual, knowledge, have been established by private associations, with the view of retaining the instruction communicated in infancy, or of restoring that lost by disuse. But far more beneficial than these has been the introduction of penny postage into Denmark. The liberal Constitution of 1848 also has made every peasant a politician, and has given him an inducement which he did not before possess to read newspapers. The letters have multiplied and increased in circulation; but while they doubtless aid the lower orders in retaining their education, they have at the same time reduced the literary character of the higher classes, who are now more rarely seen in the Great Royal Library of Copenhagen than before the Constitution was granted.

I have mentioned that the *Primary Schools* are supported by the *communes*, and that attendance at them is compulsory (unless the child is elsewhere educated), and generally that it is gratuitous. The *Secondary Schools*, on the other hand, are supported by the Central Government—the attendance at them being voluntary, and not gratuitous. There are about twenty of these "Learned" Schools, pretty equally distributed over the kingdom. Formerly, the instruction given in them was as exclusively classical as that of British High Schools; but recently they have all embraced some of the modern languages and a few of the sciences. The union of these with the classics has been found to be by no means disadvantageous to the former. So much, indeed, have they been improved by it, that the University regulations with regard to them have been modified. Formerly, if the rector of a school sent up three pupils who could not pass the

Matriculation University Examination, he lost the right of presentation, which passed to the next master. Now, except for theologians and lawyers, the Classical Examination of the Learned Schools is deemed sufficient for University admission. The subjects now taught in all the public "Learned" Schools of Denmark are, Latin, Greek, German, French, mathematics, physics, and natural history; and in many, though not in all, English and drawing are also given. There has been a growing tendency of late years to require less time to be devoted to the classics and to give more to the sciences. Accordingly, we find in several cases—as at Sorø, Flensborg, and Rønne—that "real" classes have been supplemented to the Learned Schools; and when this occurs, chemistry and mechanics frequently appear as additional objects of instruction. In the large towns, Private Learned Schools compete with those established by Government. In Copenhagen, the Government School is only obliged by law to have 150 students; while those in the Private Schools of the capital amount to about 1,500. The fee for the Public Learned Schools varies, but is about 48 dollars yearly, or rather more than 5*l.*; that for the Private Schools may be about 7*l.*,—but some additional subjects of instruction are given in the latter. If you have space in your columns for it, a good comprehension of the general education of the Secondary Schools and of the primary instruction of a Private (not a Communal) School might be obtained by inserting the following scheme of instruction, which is in actual operation at this moment in a school at Copenhagen having 320 pupils. This is a "Learned" School, with supplemental, primary, and "real" classes.—

Weekly Hours in the "Real" Division of the School.

Class	Rudimental.	VI.	V.	IV.	III.	II.	I.	Total Hours to a Subject per Week.
Age	6	7	8	9	10	11	12 to 14	
Danish	8	8	8	6	3	2	3	39
German .. .. .	..	..	3	3	5	3	3	17
French .. .. .	..	..	..	3	3	3	3	12
English .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	3	3	9
Religion and Bible History .. .. .	..	..	3	2	2	2	2	13
History .. .. .	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	6
Geography .. .. .	..	3	2	2	2	2	2	13
Mathematics and Arithmetic	6	5	4	4	3	2	1	36
Natural History .. .. .	..	..	2	2	2	..	..	6
Physics .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	4
Singing and Theory of Music	2	2	1	1	1	1	..	8
Drawing .. .. .	..	..	2	2	2	2	2	12
Writing	6	5	4	3	3	2	2	25
Gymnastics and Swimming	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	13
Hours in the week	24	30	30	30	33	33	33 or 32	

The Rudimentary Class and Classes VI., V., IV., and III. are common both to the "real" system and to the "learned" department of the school. Every one must pass through all these classes first; and then, being eleven years of age, he may choose

whether he passes into Classes II. and I. or into the Learned classes. Many do both,—most take the latter.

The following is the scheme of the Learned division.—

Weekly Scheme for the Learned Division.

Class	III. A.	III. B.	II. A.	II. B.	II. A. B.	I. A.	I. B.	Total Hours in a Week to a Subject.
Age	11	12	13	13	14	15	16	
Latin	6	9	8	8	8	8	10	57
Greek .. .. .	..	..	..	..	5	4	..	22
Hebrew .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
Danish	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	16
German	2	2	2	2	2	3	1	14
French	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	15
English	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Religion and Bible History	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	14
History	3	3	2	2	3	3	3	18
Geography	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	15
Mathematics and Arithmetic	3	3	4	4	4	4	4	26
Natural History .. .. .	..	3	2	2	3	..	..	12
Theory of Music	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Drawing	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Writing and Composition	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Gymnastics and Swimming	2	2	2	2	..	..	..	8
Hours in the week	32	32	32	32	32	34	34	

This example, selected from schemes which I have obtained of every Learned School in Denmark, exhibits the working of the Secondary Schools, which give education to its well-doing men. In the school of which I have given you the scheme for this year, I find the son of Count

Moltke, the late Prime Minister, along with the sons of shoemakers, tailors, and all classes of men, high and low. The cost of education at this particular school is a little above 7*l.* for the year.

When the pupil has reached his fifteenth or sixteenth year, he is ready for confirmation; and

passes either to the University, or enters into industrial occupations if he be not destined for a learned profession. Many of the most distinguished merchants have, however, taken their University course, as well as that of the Secondary School. The University of Copenhagen has 1,100 students, and that of Kiel about 300.

You will observe, from what I have said, that there are three kinds of Secondary Schools in Denmark—1, Learned Schools; 2, Learned Schools with real classes; and, 3, Real Schools. The latter have not yet been so successful as the two former,—the difficulty being, to get teachers well qualified in a new system of education. The Real School of Elsinore is, however, said to be excellent of its kind, but I have not yet seen it. The only school in Denmark likely to produce real teachers is the Polytechnic Institution of Copenhagen; but as that has only produced about ninety diplomaed "candidates" since 1829, most of whom are in good employments, the supply is obviously not equal to the demand. I do not think that this is much to be regretted, as, in the present disposition of the Danes, they would run too quickly into the real system of education. The Learned Schools are really moderate Real Schools; and, in uniting the elegance, refinement, and exact memory given by the classics with the habits of observation of natural history and the accurate precision of mathematics, they are educating a race of whom Denmark may justly be proud. The modern languages are never neglected in them; and thus they give substantially a "real" education. The only point that I have to remark with regard to them is, that there is a tendency to include too many branches of learning. They almost remind one of the aspiration of Goethe's scholars,—

Ich möchte gern was auf der Erden
Und in dem Himmel ist, Erfassen,
Die Wissenschaft und die Natur.

Nevertheless, they are splendid schools, and put to shame the so-called education of our English Secondary Schools. I have not met a well-clad person in the streets who did not understand German; and in very many cases French and English are also well spoken. The variety and extent of knowledge of the upper classes here have always elicited my admiration.

While, therefore, I bear willing testimony with Mr. Laing to the excellent effects both of the primary and the secondary education in Denmark, so far as it has come within my observation—and I have diligently laboured to understand them—I entirely disagree with that philosophical traveller in the reasons to which he ascribes their success. It is not true, that Government has only given education co-extensive with the demand, as he asserts. The State has acted on its own perception of right long before ignorance made a demand for that which it knew not how to value; and the compulsory laws of education are no longer felt as a burden on the community. There is certainly something anomalous in the fact that one must pay if one does not go to school, and have nothing to pay if one does,—and I shall not be surprised to find the Danes soon correcting this anomaly. It is true, also, that the free Constitution of 1848 has raised a Radical party in Denmark, who object to the compulsory laws as being incompatible with the freedom of the Constitution. But this is only a war-cry of a party, and very little believed in by those using it. I confess that, with all my English notions of liberty, I should be sorry to see Denmark make any serious changes in those educational laws which have made her perhaps the best generally educated nation in Europe.

A TRAVELLING F.R.S.

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

We have reason to know that the following circular has been sent to a few of the principal metropolitan publishers. In view of the hostility that was manifested by certain publishers towards the publication by the Education Board of the Irish school books,—the Department of Practical Art seems to have determined on placing the responsibility of resolving the difficulties of the question upon the Trade interests,—

"Department of Practical Art, Marlborough House.
26th August, 1852.

"Certain class works and examples which do not exist at present require to be produced for the use of the schools in connexion with this Department, and so far as I can see are not likely to be produced by private agency. With a view, besides being useful in our schools, it appears to be desirable that the public at large should be able to procure them. But whilst enabling the public to purchase them, it appears not to be desirable that the Department should become a publisher itself, if satisfactory arrangements can be made to avoid it. Assuming that the MSS. of such works together with any illustrations would be produced by this Department, will you have the kindness to inform me what you consider would be the most desirable course of proceeding to cause the works to be printed and published?—1. So as not to interfere with the ordinary rules and channels of trade.—2. So as not to confer any monopoly on any particular publisher without previous competition, if possible.—3. So as to afford the public the means of obtaining the works at a reasonable and moderate price.—In suggesting any plan, will you have the kindness to bear in mind that it will be necessary the Department should have, for its own use only, 250 copies at the cost of paper and print?—I am, &c.

HENRY COLE.

—We shall look with curiosity to see how the trade will deal with the question of monopoly,—and what their suggestions will be as respects competition for the privilege of publishing. A question may arise whether, instead of providing the MSS. and illustrations, and requiring to have 250 copies at the cost of paper and print, it would not be a simpler arrangement that the Department should purchase these copies at the wholesale price, and leave the publisher to provide the MSS. and illustrations at his own risk, subject to the approval of the Department.—We shall, however, doubtless have the matter fairly discussed by the trade;—and whatever may be the result, the arrangements will have had the advantage of sifting and publicity.

Not long since we made our readers acquainted with a proposal which had been laid by certain projectors before the directors of the new Crystal Palace at Sydenham—for adding to the features of attraction in that establishment the sea wave itself,—and thence bringing the tide to rise and fall in the streets of London. According to the *Builder*, the latter and more important portion of this design has been taken up by other parties,—and is intended to be carried out on a plan which the new projectors consider as yielding the conditions of a profitable investment. It is proposed to construct a sea wall, engine-house, reservoir, and offices at Middleswich, on the eastern coast of Essex; and to lay down a cast-iron main conduit thence through Southminster, Althorn, Latchington, Runwell, Wickford, East Horndon Hall, Upminster, Hornchurch, Langtons, Havering Well, Beacon Tree Heath, Great Ilford, Stratford, Old Ford Road, Ford Lane, Hackney Wick, and Homerton, to Clapton, terminating in a reservoir formerly used by the East London Waterworks Company, extending over an area of two acres in Powell's Field. It is intended, in the first instance, to construct two bathing establishments—one in the neighbourhood of Finsbury Square for the east, and the other near Cavendish Square for the western district of London; and, it is believed that the erection of the establishments at Middleswich and London, laying the mains, preliminary, legal, and every other outlay, will not exceed 90,000*l*. The capital is fixed at 100,000*l*, in 10,000 shares of 10*l*. each.—As we have already said, we suppose the engineering difficulties are such as may be overcome in an age that tunnels alps, hangs iron pathways in the air, and holds personal and immediate conversations through dividing seas,—but on the financial prospects of such a scheme we have not before us the means of forming a judgment.

Among the chief architectural glories of London rank its bridges. Rome can boast of a finer church—Berlin a nobler museum—Paris incomparably grander palaces. But what capital of Europe can show seven such structures as span the waters of the Thames between Vauxhall and the Custom House? Canova declared that it was worth a journey all the way from Rome to London only to see Waterloo Bridge. Paris has a greater number of bridges, it is true; but the Seine is a river considerably less wide and deep than the Thames. The same may be said of the Spree and its channels, at Berlin:—a stream too remote from the sea to be affected by

its tides. The Danube at Vienna is not a tidal river,—yet the Austrian capital is content with a wooden bridge across it. As to the Rhine, though not much wider than the Thames at Hungerford for two or three hundred miles, it has no bridge nearer to its outlets on the German Ocean than Bâle, in Switzerland.—But unique as is our system of metropolitan bridges, it has ceased to be adequate to the wants of the swarming life upon its banks. It necessarily demands enlargement as the population on both sides of the river increases in amount:—and at the instance of Mr. Bennoch a proposal for a new bridge, between Blackfriars and London Bridges, has been referred by the City authorities to the consideration of a committee. The new span Mr. Bennoch proposes to call St. Paul's Bridge.—The case for a new bridge across the Thames is convincingly made out by its proposer.

We see it stated, that a pension of 100*l*. a-year has been granted to the widow of the late Mr. Pugin.

A war is raging between the College of Surgeons of Ireland and the University of Dublin, in reference to the fact of the latter institution having recently undertaken to grant diplomas in surgery. It appears, that until lately all surgical diplomas in Ireland have been granted by the College of Surgeons; but the University—claiming to have under their charters power to do so, and finding it on many accounts desirable—have given a curriculum of study for surgical students, and proceeded to grant diplomas, too. The College of Surgeons complain that the University had no right, and have no reason, for taking this department of medical education and licence out of their hands.—Of the right under the terms of their charter, as produced by themselves in a statement maintaining their case, we can have no doubt. As to the reasons, we can understand how the College of Surgeons should be the last body to see any;—but there certainly seems a propriety in concentrating in a University the means of giving a complete medical education,—and we think the Board of Trinity College have come to a right conclusion in this respect. The fact is, in olden times the profession of medicine was regarded as one and indivisible, and no powers were given to practise medicine that did not give powers to practise surgery. The London College of Physicians could, according to its charter, give a licence in surgery to-morrow if it chose.—These things ought to draw the attention of the legislature to the present state of medical law, and lead at once to those reforms which are so necessary for the welfare and peace of the medical profession. It has been the absurd multiplication of charter upon charter, giving all sorts of legal powers, and the recognition by law of grades in the profession which do not exist in practice, that has led to the present anomalous position of the various medical corporations, and to those eternal bickerings between the members of our medical institutions which have frittered away the time and talents that if directed towards the science of medicine might have been an incalculable blessing to mankind.

We are glad to find that our remarks on the Black Flag nuisance of Belfast has excited the attention of the local press of that city. The visit of the British Association has undoubtedly left behind it impressions which will tell on the future mental development of the more opulent classes of Belfast;—but should it lead to the abolition of the flagrant instances that exist there of sanitary neglect, then will the great mass of the people have occasion to bless the day that brought this band of philosophers to their town.

Whilst on sanitary matters, we may state, that the Board of Health has put itself in communication with the College of Physicians on the subject of the approach of cholera. We hope the College will strenuously urge on the Government the necessity of proceeding with sanitary legislation, and acting on powers which it already possesses. The Ranelagh sewer has at last been ordered to be covered in. This should be proceeded with without loss of time. The terrible ditches in Battersea Fields demand immediate attention. All burying in the metropolis should be at once suspended.

The removal of collections of animal and vegetable refuse should be looked to in every parish and suburb in London. There are plenty of means already existing by which a Government in earnest about public health might make itself immediately felt.

The local papers tell us that the Liverpool Free Public Library and Museum is to be opened to the public on the 18th inst.—and opened without any flourish of foreign trumpets, such as Manchester delights to sound before her march in the path of education. The Liverpool people seem to have an idea—in which, for ourselves, we agree with them—that such institutions may stand on their proper merits, and are their own sufficient interpreters. They are content to risk the play which they know to be a good one without a prologue.—The Museum, it is said, will not be opened for some months. From 9,000 to 10,000 volumes have already been received into the library. The workmen are busily engaged in fitting up the glass cases for Lord Derby's museum. In one of the rooms, it is added, the Exhibition model of Liverpool is to be placed.

In the new chivalry that is springing up around us on many sides—the order of merit that finds its patents in popular gratitude and its blazonry in the blessing of the million—Sir Michael Stuart seems disposed to win for himself a distinguished place. Not long ago, we put on record, among the social facts which mark the moral elements in contemporary history, his donation of a park to the inhabitants of Greenock:—we have now to add, that in the same spirit which suggested his former liberality he has given a piece of ground—eight acres in extent—on the eastern side of the town, as a place for out-door sports and exercises.

A "Hygienic Congress," consisting of gentlemen of different countries who take an interest in promoting the health of towns and the welfare of the working classes, has been sitting at Brussels. About 200 gentlemen, Belgians and foreigners, attended. The Minister of the Interior, M. Rogier, was chosen Honorary President, and the real Presidency was conferred on M. Vlemmickx, President of the Academy of Medicine. The following were chosen Vice-Presidents:—for England, Viscount Ebrington, and Dr. Arnot;—for France, M. de Villermé and M. Magendie, Members of the Institute,—for Piedmont, the Chevalier Berlioz and Dr. Trompeo, delegated by the Ministry of the Interior, and by the city of Turin,—for Sweden, Dr. Huss, Professor of the University of Stockholm,—for Denmark, Dr. Horneman, member of the Board of Health of Copenhagen,—for Prussia, Count Aug. Czekowski, member of the Chamber of Deputies,—for Germany (Frankfurt), Dr. G. Vurentrop,—for Switzerland, Dr. Gosse,—for the Netherlands, Dr. Schick, delegate of the Congress of Medical Sciences,—for Spain, M. Ramon de la Sagra, Member of the French Institute, and of the Royal Academy of Belgium.—The work was done in four different sections:—one, charged to occupy itself with workmen's houses, baths, washhouses, and hospitals, another, with sewers, &c., the distribution of water, and ventilation,—the third, with the organization of public health, the maintaining of children, interments, and cemeteries,—and the fourth, with the adulteration of food, the labour of children in workshops, and prostitution.

Among the literary gossip which comes to us from the other world, we notice that Mr. Herman Melville—whom our readers last heard of at the Isthmus of Central America—has published a work called 'Pierre, or the Ambiguities,' in which, if we may trust American critics, that writer's prose has run more mad than ever;—and that Mr. Hawthorne, throwing aside any new Scarlet Letters and Blithedale Romances on which he may be engaged, has commenced a 'Life of Franklin Pierce' the democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States.

The Committee of Languages, History, and Arts attached to the Ministry of Public Instruction in France has received orders to make and publish a general collection of the popular poetry of France. An unlimited credit is opened to the Committee for

this purpose. The scheme is vast, and we should think somewhat unmanageable. The gathering is to include the religious, martial, and festive songs and ballads—the historical legends, tales and stories, the squibs, recitals, and satires, which exist in print or in manuscript. Poems in the various dialects of France are also to be given—with translations into the current Gallic. But it may be doubted whether this scheme will be carried out in its integrity; we could name some songs and satires—without going further back than *Roget de Lille* or *Béranger*—which the present Minister of Public Instruction would scarcely undertake to print at the expense of the State, though they are unquestionably popular.

The sale of the private library of the ex-Queen of the French, Marie Amélie, is announced to take place on the 3rd of November. Among the rare books in the collection is, the 'Sac de Rome,' written by J. Buonaparte in 1527—with a translation of the work by the present President of the French Republic.

Correspondence in the *Kölnische Zeitung* warns English and other travellers who may be on their way into the Austrian States, Italy and Bohemia, not less than into Austria proper, and Hungary, to take care what books are in their pockets or portmanteaus. It asserts that many reprints of English works—especially naming the editions of Tauchnitz and Teubner—have been seized, as well as copies of the Latin classics. Cicero and Tacitus are to be read in Austria only when expurgated. The point of the warning published in the Rhine journal is this:—the possession of any of these works not only involves their loss, but a tedious examination, unpleasant delay, and perhaps a fine. We repeat, the matter would be much simplified, and made scarcely any worse, by prohibiting books altogether.

Is it possible to connect the New World with the Old by means of a magnetic wire? This question is now occupying many minds in Paris, London, and New York. Every fresh experiment in the submersion of telegraphic cables seems to strengthen the hope that in time science will be able to put a belt beneath the sea as well as a girdle round about the earth. But the obstacles are great, if not insurmountable. Fifty or a hundred miles of tubing, lying in the ocean bed, is a manageable amount of wires, easy to pay out at first, and possible to raise, examine, and repair in case of accidents. But a cable three thousand miles long is another matter. True, there are certain points on the track between the two Continents where it would be possible to fix the wires, for instance, the Three Chimneys and Jacquet's Island. But the first of these projecting rocks is two thousand miles from London,—only five hundred of which could be saved by making one of the westernmost parts of Kerry or Connemara the point of departure. Even supposing that the wires were sunk off Dunmore Head, there would be three vast sea spaces, varying from nearly a thousand to fifteen hundred miles each, to cross; seas of unknown depth—the plumb having been let out five miles without reaching soundings,—and of varied character. In some places it is known that the sea valleys vary from half a mile to two miles of hollow; and many of the ridges consist of hard, water-worn and sharp pointed rocks, which in a violent sea, it may be feared, would be likely to abrade and sever the metallic ropes. Immense spaces of the Atlantic bed are covered with gigantic sea weeds, of unknown strength and thickness; and it is imagined that the lightning wires, once imbedded in a thousand miles of these tenacious plants, could not be again raised for any purpose. How far these impediments may be surmounted, it is for science to decide,—but in the mean time a project has been started which has for its object to avoid them altogether. This is to be done by changing the route, and making the journey as much as possible overland. Starting from the most northern part of the main land of Scotland, it is proposed to throw an electric wire to Orkney, Shetland, and the Faroe Islands,—to carry it thence to Iceland and the east coast of Greenland,—thence onwards to a point on Davis's Straits, near the

Arctic Circle,—and so to Cape Walsingham. Another submarine wire would then carry the lines across Hudson's Straits into Upper Canada. Though the distance by this route would be much greater than through the Atlantic Ocean, the submerged wires would be about five hundred miles shorter. The number of stations by the island route would be far greater,—and the wire would have to pass through the territories of a third power, Denmark, and over immense tracts of uninhabited and unexplored country.

The LATE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S CAMPAIGNS, honoured by the presence and approval of Her Majesty, the Royal Family, and the late Duke,—The Nobility and Public are respectfully informed, that in consequence of forthcoming Novelties, the period has become limited during which they can inspect this, the only complete DIORAMA of HIS GRACE'S CAREER ever exhibited. Daily, at Three and Eight o'clock.—Admission, 1s., 2s., 6d., and 3s.

GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, 14, Regent Street.

THE GOLD FIELDS OF AUSTRALIA.—This NEW MOVING PANORAMA, Painted from his sketches made upon the spot, by J. R. Fawcett, is EXHIBITED daily at 209, Regent Street, next the Polytechnic. Among the principal Scenes are—Plymouth Sound—Madeira—Cape of Good Hope—South Sea Whale Fishing—Melbourne—Geelong—The Road to the Diggins—Mount Alexander—Sydney—The Blue Mountains—Summerhill Creek—Uphill—Encampment of Gold Diggers by Moonlight. It being desirable that the Scenes should be described by one personally acquainted with the Colony, Mr. Fawcett has, for a short time, undertaken that office.—Admission, 1s.; Reserved Seats, 2s.; Gallery, 6d. At Three and Eight o'clock.

PATRON—H.R.H. PRINCE ALBERT.

DEATH OF WELLINGTON.—THE NATIONAL SONG, by MACFARREN, will be sung by GEORGE BUCKLAND, Esq., at the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, in his Evening LECTURE ON MUSIC, in which he will be assisted by Miss Blanche Young, R.A.M.—LECTURES.—By J. H. Pepper, Esq., ON TESTING GOLD, and on the AUSTRALIAN GOLD DIGGINGS.—By Dr. Buchholzer, on the MODES OF PRESERVING FRESH PROVISIONS.—By Mr. Crisp, on MORRILL'S PATENT NEEDLES.—NEW SERIES OF DISSOLVING VIEWS, &c. &c.—Admission, 1s.; Schools and Children under ten, Half-price. For hours see Programme.

SCIENTIFIC

PHENOMENA OF LIGHT.

ALTHOUGH the absurdity of the statement to which the following communication refers has been fully exposed,—we are not certain that the phenomena which induced a very superficial observer to announce the discovery of the visibility of the component particles of the air have before been so well described and explained as they are here by our correspondent.—In the *Philosophical Magazine* for May 1834 will be found a paper, by Sir David Brewster, we believe, entitled 'Observations on the Visibility of the Retina,' which bears on the subject,—and should be consulted by those who are interested therein.

Some time since, as you mentioned in your journal as the time, M. Andraud made a communication to the *Académie des Sciences* of Paris in which he announced his discovery of the visibility of the component particles of the air. He had observed on looking through a very minute aperture in a card held between the eye and the light certain objects which he considered to be the constituent particles of the atmosphere itself.

It is true that whenever a very minute aperture is held at the distance of one or two inches from the eye between it and the light, the following appearances are visible:—1st. The minute hole, of whatever figure it be, assumes the aspect of a perfectly circular disc.—2nd. This luminous disc, viewed, as if it were an object at the usual distance of distinct vision, appears traversed by a fibrous or reticulated texture, interspersed with small specks or spots, some darker, some lighter than the general tone of the disc.—3rdly. Whatever number of these apertures are applied successively to the same eye the configuration or pattern of this texture is always identical; but, on changing the eye, though the general appearance remains analogous, the pattern becomes entirely different.—4thly. Besides these appearances, which are constant, (at least constant so far as the observations of a day, or week, are concerned; though in process of time these patterns do gradually alter), minute globules are occasionally seen to move across the disc:—on half closing the eye, the eyelashes become distinctly visible, so that they may be counted—minute particles of dust on a plate of glass interposed between the eye and the aperture, with other similar objects are readily and distinctly perceived.

Now, it seems evident from the identity of

pattern presented successively to the same eye by any number of these apertures, that it is something belonging to the structural condition of the eye itself which is thus seen—as, probably of its anterior membrane, of the crystalline lens, as of any other part—and it is not impossible that some advantage might be derived in the investigation of some of the causes of indistinct sight from thus subjecting the eye to its own examination. But, in the first instance, the mode in which this abnormal exercise of vision is effected appears to require consideration.

It is obviously impossible that any focal image of the objects thus perceived, can by any focal adjustment of the eye itself be depicted on the retina, and yet they are clearly enough defined. The explanation of this is, that they are seen by virtue of their shadows projected on that nerve: as may be established by the following considerations and experiment.

In the first place the objects in question are not ordinarily visible, because, while for optical reasons no focal image of them can occur at the retina, their shadows are not, except under peculiar circumstances, extended to that distance; and this for the same reason that the shadow of the earth, though it reaches the moon, cannot extend so far as our next planetary neighbour. But as a diminution of the diameter of the sun towards equality with that of the earth, would cause its shadow to reach to any proportionate distance in space, so the adequate diminution of the aperture by which light falls on the minute objects in question enables their shadows to reach the retina, a distance much further than that to which they would, under ordinary circumstances of illumination, be projected.

Now, the idea or notice which would be conveyed to the sensorium by the retina of a shadow clearly defined on its surface will, it will readily be understood, differ in no material respect from that of a similarly shaped dark image, the result of a focal picture of some object placed at an ordinary distance of distinct vision. Thus in a camera obscura a small substance in front of the object-glass would, if placed and shaped appropriately, assume by virtue of its shadow the appearance of a dark beam among the other objects seen on the table by virtue of their focal images. Nor would a spectator, considered as the sensorium of the camera (itself a gigantic eye of which the white table is the retina), readily or necessarily perceive the illusion. In photography the susceptible paper recognizes no difference between the shadow of a fine wire in immediate proximity, and the focal image of a massive bar at twenty feet; but registers both alike: and thus also it is not easily conceivable that shadows, if once projected upon the retina, would be reported by it to the brain in any other manner than as if they were focal images of objects not nearer to the eye than the usual limits of distinct vision.

The following simple experiment illustrates and confirms the foregoing remarks:—In a dark room let a lens, say of three inches' focus, set in a sufficient margin of pasteboard be fixed vertically at its focal distance from a white wall. Affix some small object (a minute fragment of wafer, or the like) on the surface of the lens. When a strong light, such as that of a dark lantern with a bull's eye lens, is held in front, no shadow of the wafer is perceptible; but on interposing a thin sheet of lead with a pin-hole of about one-thirtieth inch diameter, so that no light may pass forth except through this minute aperture, the shadow of the wafer becomes clearly defined on the wall. It is immaterial for the experiment whether a lens or a plate of plane glass be used. The adoption of a lens offers indeed an exact analogy to the case of the eye, while the substitution of a simple plane glass shows that the lenticular surface is not really at all concerned with the main result.

The application of these remarks to Mr. Andraud's observations seems to preclude the necessity of supposing that the particles of the air have been rendered perceptible. The visibility of the texture of the eye itself,—of the minute globules of the lachrymal fluid on its surface—possibly even of particles of dust slowly floating in the neighbourhood of the pupil (a condition of vision not unfrequently realized even among philosophers)

seem quite sufficient to account for the phenomenon, of which he has proposed so startling an explanation.—I am, &c. J. HIPPLEY.

Stoneaston, September 27.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

Mon. Entomological, &
Tues. Zoological, &—General Business.

FINE ARTS

MR. WILLIAM FINDEN.

It was only last week that we spoke of Mr. William Finden as one of seven or eight eminent historical engravers whose names were attached to a petition to Her Majesty for the recognition of the claim of engravers to the full honours of the Royal Academy: and we have now to announce that the affixing of his signature to that petition was one of the last acts of Mr. Finden's life. He caught cold on his return from a meeting of his fellow engravers—the cold aggravated an old complaint, disease of the heart,—and on the 20th of September he was no more. He died a widower, in the sixty-fifth year of his age.

Mr. William Finden was the elder brother of Mr. Edward Finden, in conjunction with whose name his own is honourably mentioned and will be remembered hereafter in the history of Art in this country. He was, we believe, a pupil of the late Mr. Charles Warren—known to collectors by his exquisite engraving after 'The Broken Jar' by Wilkie. From Warren he learnt much—but he was under more secret and really greater obligations in his art to Mr. James Heath (father of the late Mr. Charles Heath) than he was to Mr. Warren,—many of his early works done for embellished books published by Sharpe, Suttaby and others bearing unmistakable evidences how carefully he had given his days and nights to the study of Mr. Heath's engravings. In this style some of his early plates for Smirke's 'Don Quixote' are excellent examples of his art.

Mr. Finden's great works—works great in point of size—are not numerous. His largest and best is his full-length portrait of George the Fourth seated on a sofa, from the original picture painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence for the Marchioness of Conyngham. As a piece of bold but delicate line-engraving in which the engraver does full justice to his original and to himself, this is a masterpiece of its kind. There are no gaping or feeble lines in any part,—but throughout a warmth and vigour worthy of William Sharp. The work is a true translation of the picture rendered with the feeling of an artist.

A fine engraving from a good picture necessarily possesses qualities akin to the qualities of the original. How exquisitely did Fisher and Haward understand and render Sir Joshua;—how truly have Raimbach and Burnet translated Wilkie;—how charmingly has Mr. Doo, in his 'Nature,' entered into all the better qualities of Lawrence;—and with what skill did William Finden catch all the portraiture and finish of one of Sir Thomas's most laboured pictures. The price for the George IV. was large. Mr. Finden received 1,500 guineas for engraving it,—the highest price, we believe, ever paid for engraving a portrait. The sale, too, was unprecedentedly large,—and proofs were so much in demand at the time, that they were advertised for with a considerable premium on the price of publication. See, however, the caprice of fashion—and the difference between a living and a dead king! Proofs may now be had, we believe, for nearly as many shillings as pounds were required to obtain them "when George the Fourth was king." How much exquisite art did William Finden waste on the wig and silk stockings of George the Fourth—art that might have been better, though not so profitably, employed in translating to copper

Paulo's free stroke or Titian's warmth divine!

For, even William Finden's art cannot keep the old king "in fashion."

After the *sofa* King George, Mr. Finden's next important large works in point of size and merit, are his 'Highlander's Return' (the Wilkie still an ornament at Cassiobury);—'The Village Festival,' after the well-known picture by the same artist,

painted for Mr. Angerstein, and now in the National Gallery;—and 'The Naughty Boy,' a boy standing, with dogged look, close to his broken slate,—after the original by Sir Edwin Landseer in Mr. Sheepshanks's collection. For 'The Highlander's Return,' he received 600 guineas; and for 'The Naughty Boy,' 150 guineas. What he received for 'The Village Festival' we do not remember to have heard. He was never happier than in this engraving after Wilkie. He has caught—and on a copper much smaller than any copper used by Burnet and Raimbach in transferring to paper the canvas-offspring of the great Scottish artist—an infinite share of the life and character belonging to that full and elaborate composition executed in what was perhaps Wilkie's happiest period. This, to our thinking, is Mr. Finden's best work—and that by which he will be most largely remembered—for it will be difficult to put 'The Village Festival' out of fashion.

Working for the booksellers as Mr. Finden and his brother worked, gave them both a taste for working on their own account. It was not long, therefore, before they became publishers—not ostensibly, but really publishers as sharing in the profit and loss of their new undertakings. Their great work, in this branch of their profession, was

'The Byron Illustrations'—a really beautiful work—conceived and executed with great spirit, taste and success. By this they made money more than sufficient to excite the envy of legitimate publishers; and in this the heyday of their reputation they were looked upon for what they were—monied men—into whose hands only good things would come, and in whose hands good things were sure to succeed.

It is not often that men who step out of their legitimate walk continue to be successful in both callings. Sir Walter Scott was unsuccessful as a publisher,—Mr. Macready lost money as a manager,—Mr. Martin would have done better with Mr. Moon than he did—though he did well—on his own account,—and except in the remarkable instance of 'The Byron Illustrations,' Mr. Finden and his brother were unsuccessful publishers. Buoyed up by the Byron success, Mr. William Finden launched into other expensive undertakings:—and of which the most important, and perhaps the most costly, was 'The Gallery of British Art.' This was really a beautiful work, containing a well-selected collection of examples of the living English school—engraved generally with care and fidelity and, in some instances, with a spirit to be given only by true and great engravers. This work, which in other hands might have turned out a profitable undertaking, proved, in the hands of Mr. Finden, a serious loss. In this venture he wrecked his Byron savings,—and he became a poor man.

The last great work on which Mr. Finden was employed, was an engraving, for the Art-Union of London, after Hilton's large picture of 'The Crucifixion.' The proofs of this engraving have been issued some time,—but even the proofs will not add to Mr. Finden's reputation. A great engraver is indeed reduced in the world when he undertakes to work for an Art (we had nearly written a poor law) Union, for all who have worked for societies of this nature have wrought with a sense that they were doing what poverty alone compels them to do—and their works have exhibited corresponding traces that the hand had lost its cunning—and the heart its good will.

Mr. Finden lies buried in the General Cemetery at Highgate.

ART-ANTIQUITIES IN ATHENS.

A letter has been addressed from Athens to Mr. Hamilton, Vice-President of the Royal Society of Literature, by Mr. Charles Newton, lately of the British Museum, but now Her Majesty's Vice Consul at Mytilene; in which he gives a very interesting account of the objects which he saw still preserved in that ancient city of the Arts,—and chiefly of the numerous fragments of Art contemporary with and posterior to the time of Phidias.

It would be difficult, says Mr. Newton, without actually visiting the Acropolis, to form any idea of

the interest and value of these fragments as a further illustration of the sculptures in the Elgin Room, —to which they are as essential as leaves torn out of a MS. are to the book itself. The places in which the sculptures are preserved are:—1. The *cella* of the Parthenon itself, in which the most important objects are the torso of a male figure kneeling on both knees, and a reclining female figure, which Mr. Newton and Mr. Lloyd both agree to be those of the Iliissus and Kallirrhoe, believing the figure in the British Museum commonly called the Iliissus to be the Cephissus. This male torso is of the greatest beauty, the thighs are very finely preserved, and the same great style which we find in the Theseus is at once recognizable. 2. A long cellar or cistern, running north and south in front of the west end of the Temple. The whole cellar is full of fragments perfectly unarranged, but some of them of inestimable value. Among them are two horses' heads, quite worthy of those in the Elgin Room; a hoof with holes all round inside, showing where a metallic shoe had been fastened to it. All these fragments exhibit a remarkable grandeur of style sustained throughout. They are what we might expect from Phidias as a conception of the horses of Pallas. In the same cistern, or in one near it, is a large wing, which M. Pittakys, the curator, considers to belong to the figure of Nike or Iris from the east pediment, —now in the British Museum. It has square holes in the back behind for the insertion of wings. Mr. Newton, however, states that he should rather have supposed this to be the wing of one of the horses in the car of Poseidon in the west pediment, for it is more consonant with the art of Phidias that his car should have been drawn by winged horses than by hippocampi, as Welcker has supposed. 3. At the east end of the Acropolis, a temporary museum, in which several fragments of the frieze are preserved. 4. At the entrance of the Acropolis, near the lodge of the curator, a fragment of the frieze representing a figure with a bull. 5. In the building on the left in ascending the Propylea, —which is described by Pausanias as an edifice containing pictures, —are a number of fragments of all styles, among which is part of a chariot-wheel, and a fragment of a horse's head. These are the principal torsos and fragments of which Mr. Newton took note. But everything, he says, is of interest which relates to the smallest fragment of the great design of Phidias. If the scholars of Europe have thought it worth while to edit every relic, however insignificant, of the lost plays of Sophocles, why are we so indifferent to the remains of the art of Phidias? It seems of great importance that good casts should before long be made of all the remains still existing at Athens; —and this for several reasons. 1. The sculptures in question are for the most part not at present accessible. No archaeologist or artist can see them without a journey to Athens, and when on the spot none would know of their existence unless from previous study. Even then they can be seen only by making a special appointment with the curator, —and the visit must, therefore, be a hurried one. 2. They are not only difficult of access, but they are also in great danger from mutilation and depredation. Already has the beautiful group of the six seated deities, lately discovered, sustained irreparable injury, the hand and the foot of one of the male figures having been broken off. The cast now in the Elgin Room is the only record of this hand and foot. 3. In the present unsettled state of Greece the sculptures are necessarily insecure; and in the event of another revolution, what is there to prevent the Acropolis from being again a fortress, and again a mark for the cannon of the besieging party? The shells which in 1833 destroyed the roof of the Erechtheum would not be wanting to complete the destruction of the sculptures of Phidias. 4. To the artist and the archaeologist—to all who make the design of Phidias, viewed as a whole, the object of their study, and do not regard the sculptures in the Elgin Room as isolated fragments, but rather as parts of one great poetic composition—the addition of these casts would be of infinite service. Neither Carrey's drawings, nor the remains of the temple *in situ*, nor the sculptures in the Elgin Room, are singly sufficient for the interpretation of the great compositions of Phidias;

but when brought into immediate juxtaposition, they give unity and significance to that which appeared isolated and hopelessly mutilated. To persist in keeping apart what Phidias had once united, seems very like keeping the book in one place and a few torn leaves in another.

Besides the sculptures above mentioned, which belong to the Parthenon, there are also at Athens, says Mr. Newton, several other collections of great value. 1. Numerous fragments from the Temple of Victory, which, viewed as parts of one composition in *alto-relievo*, are of great interest, and present the same rich variety of attitude which we find in the coins of Terina. 2. Portions of the frieze of the Erechtheum recently discovered—many of the pieces very well preserved, and interesting examples of Art of which we know the precise date. Most of the slabs of this frieze are engraved in Rangabe's '*Antiquités Helléniques*,' Athens, 4to. 1849. 3. In the building on the left of the Propylea, opposite the Temple of Victory, are a number of bas-reliefs and fragments provisionally built into frames. Some of them are very beautiful compositions, with much of the manner of Phidias about them. 4. On the right of the entrance to the Propylea are other frames with bas-reliefs. One of these is very curious, as bearing great resemblance to the earliest coins of Syracuse. It is a figure of archaic character in a car. The wheel has four spokes imitating a rose. The figure is seated. The horses are two in number, moving slowly. 5. At the entrance to the Acropolis, near the lodge of the curator, is an archaic seated figure of Athens, which Müller supposed to represent the Minerva Polias. The ægis falls like a tippet over her breast to the waist, and has in its centre a Gorgon's head. All round the edge are holes, to which metallic ornaments have been attached. Lastly, in the temporary museum of the Temple of Theseus are collected all the most remarkable sculptures found in and about Athens, excepting those found on the Acropolis itself. A large number of these are sepulchral bas-reliefs, the inscriptions on which generally determine their date. The bas-reliefs often present very beautiful designs, exhibiting the same kind of relation to the higher art of Phidias which the vase paintings of the best period must have had to the paintings of Polygnotus, or the *terra-cotta* figures to the great works in bronze or marble.

Shortly before Mr. Newton left Athens, he was enabled to visit Mavrodhilissi, near Kelamo, to examine some inscriptions which had been observed there. The chief interest of the place is, that it is believed to be the site of the Temple of Amphiaros, which Pausanias and other authors place near Oropus. Mr. Newton considers, from personal inspection, that there can be no doubt that Mavrodhilissi does represent the situation of the Amphiarion. Mr. Newton observed the position of the *temenos* clearly defined by ancient foundations, and the ground strewn with large slabs of marble, covered by inscriptions. Among other things was an altar dedicated to Amphiaros, which alone would settle the question as to the name of the site, —and four or five inscriptions granting *Proxenia* to individuals in the name of the city of Oropus, —with a curious list of the victors in the dramatic, musical, and gymnastic contests, being a record apparently of some local panegyrist. Mr. Newton discovered also, lying across a mountain torrent in a ravine, a fine statue, which he thought was very probably that of Amphiaros himself, described by Pausanias as being in this temple. It is at present lying in the stream close by where a spring flows from the bank, and where, probably, was the sacred fountain mentioned by Pausanias and others. The description of Livy, "*fontibus rivisque circum teminum*," is perfectly applicable to this picturesque spot at present.

FINE-ART Gossip.—It is more than probable that within a year something will be done in the matter of a new National Gallery: and such being the case, it is not too soon now to begin to watch the affair. Whatever be done, we hope it will be done openly and above-board, —if only for the novelty of the thing, and to try for once whether such a system of proceeding would not be greatly more advantageous

than that according to which we have hitherto, for the most part, conducted our public buildings. Let us in this instance have done with that intangible gentleman, *Mr. Nobody*—and let there be a clear responsibility somewhere. Irresponsibility encourages busy-bodies to interfere in what they do not understand. It is not right that all the odium of unsuccess in a public building should fall upon the architect, while the powers that be prescribe to him conditions which baffle his art—and make the blunders which they afterwards join in condemning. Private individuals must of course be left to do as they please; but in the case of public works, there are two parties who are amenable to the jurisdiction of public opinion,—the employers as well as the employed. The present Chancellor of the Exchequer has assured us that we shall never do anything great in architecture until we "hang an architect" by way of wholesome caution to the rest of the profession. If this is to be the case, let us give the architect a *pendant* in the shape of My Lord This or the Right Honourable That who is at the bottom of the absurdity.

A correspondent writes to the *Times* to complain of the neglected state of the statue of Charles the First at Charing Cross. He says:—"I was looking at it this morning, admiring the statue and the beautiful pedestal, or rather what was once beautiful, but which is now in so deplorable a state of dilapidation as to render it scarcely possible to distinguish a single moulding on the rich design of the composition. In this age of restoration, I am surprised that no influential person, not even the Ministers of the Crown, have paid the slightest attention to it, as in the course of a short time we shall see that the statue fall to the ground." —The writer rather exaggerates the dilapidation of the pedestal; though certainly some of the mouldings are much eaten by time, and would be the better for judicious repair.

The idea of a statue in honour of the Duke of Wellington has already taken a definite shape in Manchester;—where a first meeting has been held, and 2,500*l.* subscribed by a few firms and individuals. The appeal to be made to the public will no doubt produce a sum of money worthy of the town and of the greatness which it seeks to commemorate;—and the completion of the several Peel statues in the country offers a means of comparison, in lieu of competition, which will enable the committee to bestow their commission with more than the usual amount of confidence as to the result. The event has likewise brought to mind a promise made some time ago by the Earl of Ellesmere to the men of Manchester—that in case the town would erect statues to Peel and Wellington he would present it with a corresponding figure of the late Duke of Bridgewater—to whose vast scheme of canals the whole district is so much indebted. It is stated, that Lord Ellesmere is prepared to offer 10,000*l.* for this purpose.

The arts of decoration, when applied to the shop-fronts of such a thoroughfare as Regent Street, have in a city like London a more than commercial importance. Our capital has other and greater glories than its shops; but these have their value in an architectural sense,—and any discovery which offers them an additional and available means of embellishment is to be esteemed for all that it is worth. A Mr. Clarke, of Southwark, has found that the ordinary window-sashes may be made of glass, instead of wood or iron as at present;—and from the greater beauty of the material, it is obvious that sashes of red, blue or green glass—according to the taste of the glazier or according to the other decorations of the window—would add considerably to the brilliant effects of a fine shop-front.

It may be of use to some of our readers to be informed, that as a consequence of the decree which ordered the removal of all the royal relics and monuments of France to the capital, the famous Bayeux Tapestry has been carried to the Louvre. A popular demonstration against a measure so locally destructive took place on the day of its removal;—but this was, of course, useless when opposed to the will that now dictates laws to France.

The Bologna Academy of Fine Arts has opened a competition—free to artists of all nations—for a series of first-class prizes. The subject for painting is to be taken from Alfieri's tragedy of 'Saul':—"Saul terrified by the ghost of Samuel." The picture must be in oil. The subject for sculpture is, "St. Theresa, absorbed in divine love, faints in the arms of the angels." For these works, the prize will be an academy gold medal of the value of 80 sequins,—about 35*l*. The subject for a drawing is, "Charon scaring away the Souls," as described in the third canto of the 'Inferno.' For perspective, the subject is, "A vast square, rendered irregular and picturesque by the various situations of the buildings and monuments of various ages, their preservation or state of decay; while a portion of a façade of a splendid public palace in the ogival style of the thirteenth century stands in the foreground." The prizes for the latter two are, respectively, 25 sequins and 20 sequins. The works must be sent in before sunset of June 30th, 1853.

Our present race of architects are not at all anxious to preserve for posterity authentic records of the buildings which they have executed. The practice—and we will call it the good old practice—of publishing drawings of their own works has been discontinued by the profession, notwithstanding that their productions are particularly subject to all the untoward circumstances of the chapter of accidents,—to casual destruction by fire, intentional demolition, and what is something hardly less to be deprecated, alteration. Where is James Wyatt's Pantheon now, where the Regent Street Colonnade,—where Wanstead, or Worksop, or Carlton House? Soane's Scala Regia and Royal Gallery are already expunged,—as is also his Board of Trade. Already have shopkeepers ruined the exterior of the Royal Exchange,—already has disappeared a very scenic room, erected not very many years ago by Mr. Cockerell, in the Bank of England, next to the Garden Court;—and now—not at all to our satisfaction—we learn, that the principal room or office of the London and Westminster Bank, in Lothbury, is undergoing alterations which, however they may increase its material commodiousness, will quite destroy its originally piquant architectural character, by doing away with its *velar* dome. Imperious necessity, or expediency, may perhaps justify similar demolitions,—but surely in all such cases, a faithful record of the original work might be preserved.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Angiol di Dio, Terzetto.—*Nella caduca polve, Quartetto.*—*Ah, non lasciarmi, Melodia.*—*Il canto del menestrello, Ballata.*—*Eurio, Romanza Pastorale.*—*E mezzo di, Recitativo e Bolero.*—*La Rosa, Melodia.*—*Rilla, Ballata.* Musica di L. Gordiniani. —All singers who desire something new in the Italian style, gracefully and carefully written, and within the compass of ordinary voices, will be glad of such an addition to their stores as the above eight pieces by Signor Gordiniani furnish. Some among them are in his very best manner, and furnish a good instance of the truth which we have more than once propounded,—namely, the possible improvement of melody by practice and the cultivation of taste. 'Ah, non lasciarmi,' for instance, is a charming and individual setting of the well-known words, which, we suppose, will be set again, and yet again, so long as Italian verse is in request. The opening of 'La Rosa,' too, is so delicate and so delightful, that we listen for a repetition of so happy a phrase,—and, a thing strange in Italian music, listen in vain. 'Il canto del menestrello' is, again, excellent, in a more piquant and spirited style. In all these pieces the accompaniment has a certain share of interest: in all of them the vocal executant is required to sing well, according to the canons of the old schools of Italy. There are too many temptations in the present day for the voice to sing badly,—nay, not to sing at all, and to content itself by suicidally "crying aloud"; but that in England, at least, we are still not acquiescent in destruction—that we are still averse to mistaking ruin for progress—is wholesomely proved by the

increasing popularity of compositions so sweet and so select as the chamber-music of Signor Gordiniani.

Three Pieces for the Violin and Piano. By Joseph Joachim. Op. 2.—On the occasion of Herr Joachim's concert we found it necessary [*ante*, p. 730] to speak in remonstrance against the path apparently preferred in composition by the most gifted young violinist of his day. This we did not merely on the strength of the music performed by him in public, but also with reference to these very three pieces with which we had made acquaintance in private. A return to them, without the interest thrown into them by their composer's playing, has in no respect caused us to amend the judgment which it behoved us to record plainly in proportion as our admiration and hope for the future of Herr Joachim were sincere. In England we trust these pieces will not—because they should not—find favour: since such spirit and fancy as they contain are clogged, tormented, overwrought, to a point far short of which the most willing sympathy for the over-anxieties of young experiment must stop short. Unless Herr Joachim altogether change his manner of working, he will never be to the new half-century what Dr. Spohr has been to the one just closed—the greatest German composer for the violin.

Six Songs for Voice and Piano. By Laura Wilson Barker.—In virtue of the number and the nature of her appearances in print, this lady must be placed first among the female composers who have made music an object of serious and thorough study, and not used it as a toy for the shallow entertainment of vanity calling itself amateurship. These six Songs are among the lighter specimens of her talent: not any among them is to be ranked with her *cantata* 'Enone,' last year made known to the public by means of Miss Dolby's fine singing.—Our favourite is Tennyson's 'Lullaby,' mentioned incidentally a few weeks since: because the melody has a point and a vigour which are not to be found in all of the set. Since point and vigour in melody are at Miss Barker's command, she cannot be too warmly admonished to rest contented with no work in which they have not distinct and characteristic utterance. Her facility of smooth writing and sweet expression may otherwise seduce her into an insipidity admissible enough in amateurs of the common order, but not to be permitted in her. We could illustrate our *caveat* from these six Songs, which may possibly have been selected as the most easy, and therefore most saleable, among those in her portfolio; but the above hint is sufficient.

Across the Dark Blue Wave, Schiffoletto, Duett. Morning and Evening. Two Songs for Soprano or Tenor. Composed by Franz Bosen.—Though these compositions may be described as written in the German style, there is in them a far easier and sweeter flow of vocal melody than is habitual to most young German composers; and therefore they may be recommended as likely to satisfy those who, loving expression, love also the sweet and gracious art of singing too well to be contented with music that is bad to sing.

Bauernlieder. Twelve Songs of the Hanoverian Peasantry, for the Pianoforte. Transcribed by Carl Engel. Op. 15.—These are not correctly designated; being not so much Songs of the Hanoverian Peasantry as songs adopted by them. What the Italian street and quay folk get out of the popular opera of the hour—a tune to be popularized or vulgarized in proportion as their fancy will and their voices can do it—the boors of Hanover get out of the part-books of the most accessible *Liedertafel* Society. These, then, are pleasing, sprightly and symmetrical rather than wild melodies—composer's tunes, not national airs,—pleasingly arranged for pianoforte players in an early stage of proficiency, by Herr Engel.

NOTES ON THE FESTIVALS.

Norwich Festival.

Thursday Evening.—The last concert was brighter than any preceding one. The singers all sang their best, and the audience was in a fine humour. More brilliantly Fioravanti's merry old *terzetto* 'Io diro' could hardly have ever been given than it was given by Madame Viardot, Signor Bel-

letti, and Miss Louisa Pyne. The last young lady subsequently took the principal part in the 'Loreley' *finale*, with a decision and spirit which made that difficult piece of music far more effective than it had been at Birmingham, when it was delivered by Madame Novello. And how welcome sounded Mendelssohn's rich, clear, varied, and sonorous orchestration those only could tell who had been undergoing four hours and a half of the crude and fierce noises of 'Jerusalem' in the morning!—One or two items in the *programme* must be annulled on as superfluous, and beneath the dignity of a Festival concert. A *pièce d'occasion*, written after the fashion of the 'Death of Nelson,' in commemoration of the Duke of Wellington, and set by Mr. Macfarren, with the success usual on such occasions, for Mr. Sims Reeves to sing,—was a gratuitous anti-climax after the tribute paid on Wednesday morning. As judiciously might the first quadrille at Friday's ball have been danced in crape and to a "muffled drum" set!—Again, at a meeting such as the Norwich Festival, such a piece of gallery sentiment as 'Nan of Battersea' was thoroughly misplaced. By concessions like these, audiences are kept low; and that English audiences are neither averse nor incapable of being raised, the success of Beethoven's Choral Symphony at Birmingham is a significant proof. With such an amount of new music to prepare, it would have been impossible for even so skilled and assiduous a conductor as M. Benedict to make anything like the same effort at Norwich, on behalf of the evenings,—but because the sublime was unattainable, there was surely no occasion to descend to the commonplaces of Wapping paths.

We shall not pretend to dwell point by point on the noble performance of 'The Messiah,' which closed the Festival. In this, our English singers did themselves great honour. Mr. Weiss must be specified with encouragement, as having done himself credit as second *basso*. By the side of our vocalists, who are familiar with Handel, must be praised Signori Gardoni and Belletti, to whom their occupation was strange,—and who sang and said their music admirably. The sole *solo* blemish on this meeting, of any consequence, has been the violent and incorrect execution of Herr Formes, who appears resolute to misuse the popularity gained for him by the huge and heavy tones of his bass voice. We have rarely heard him to so little advantage as at Norwich.—'The Messiah' attracted the most crowded audience of the six performances.

On the whole, this tenth Norwich Festival has fully sustained the high character of the meeting. While it was hardly to be avoided that in giving two English oratorios one must needs be sacrificed to the other,—and while we regret that the worthier and more modest work, that of the man of Norwich, was not better supported, whereas the success of the rival production was assured ere it was given,—whatever be the financial result, the spirit of the Committee claims thanks and honourable record. Their proceedings this year, in regard to English music, remind us of the well-known Italian *factia*, in which the peasant, after vain attempts to mount his ass, made a little prayer to our Lady of Loretto, and then jumped over it, saying, "When the Lady of Loretto is good—she is too good." Another time, they will not for the sake of their treasury be "too good." Bearing this sobering counsel in mind,—with the aid of musical advice from their conductor, they may be led to bring forward some one really worthy original work which may do honour to their fine old town, and figure honourably in company and in contrast with the recognized masterpieces of the redoubtable foreign composers.

SADLER'S WELLS.—Two revivals have been produced at this theatre:—Lillo's 'Arden of Feversham,' and Massinger's 'City Madam.' The former piece, which was acted on Friday and Saturday last, was probably selected as a literary curiosity,—having been pronounced by some critics to be the best domestic murder-tragedy in the language. Nevertheless, it does not appear ever to have been successful on the stage. Lillo's biographer, Davies, accounts for the failure partly by the injudicious

introduction of "detested characters, the perpetrators of low villainy, murderers and assassins," which are, according to him, presented with undue prominence. "The diabolical ministers of vengeance," says he, "should be just seen and dismissed; though they may be spoken of with propriety, an audience will not long endure their company." *Black Will* and *Shakebag*, the two villains here alluded to, proved, however, on the present occasion, to be the most effective parts in the representation. The former—decided in outline, determined in purpose, and well made-up and played by Mr. Barrett—was the real hero of the scenes in which he appeared. Both these personages, too, are most artistically introduced to the audience in the second act, by the description given of them by *Bradshaw*, who meets them on the road. Unlike the murderers in 'Macbeth,' their presence is especially prepared for, as that of important agents in the business, not mere temporary implements. Theirs are, in fact, both character-parts,—and first-rate of their class. Had others of the *dramatis personæ* been as carefully individualized, the drama might have maintained itself on the boards. In other respects it displays great skill. The expedients by which the premeditated murder is procrastinated from act to act are amongst the most skilful contrivances for prolonging an interest ever exhibited. As a piece of mechanical arrangement, the drama is perfect;—but the mediocrity of Lillo's genius in the delineation of character, in the expression of sentiment, and in poetic diction, could not enable him to lift up either his theme or his persons to the proper dramatic elevation, which nevertheless the artificial style of the dialogue perpetually suggested. This unfortunate play has now probably had its last trial; as notwithstanding that on this occasion it was efficiently acted, it yet proved powerless to excite the least manifestation of feeling on the part of the audience. An interest was felt in the story—but none in the persons, the two murderers aforesaid excepted.

The result of the performance of 'The City Madam,' on Wednesday, was very different. The house was roused to a state of unwonted animation by Mr. Phelps's very peculiar impersonation of *Luke*. The part is decidedly a telling one. The temporary madness into which the sudden possession of wealth and power threw a man who had been wronged, was powerfully enunciated. The play, as now altered, presents *Luke* repentant. The turning-point is beautifully managed, by making it depend on the affectionate phrase of "good *Luke*" addressed to him by the more "tender-hearted" of the *City Madam*'s daughters:—the tone at once arresting the current of madness and turning his mind inward on itself. The comedy is throughout well acted:—and it will probably prove as attractive as it did eight years ago, when it was last performed at this theatre.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—Our Autumn Musical Festivals, it will be seen, have this year been of more than usual interest.—Life appears to be stirring everywhere:—since the comparative ill success of the Hereford meeting may possibly lead to a re-modelling of the annual convocation of the three choirs.—It is said, that Worcester has declared its intention of seceding from this elderly alliance, and next year holding a music-meeting of its own on a scale superior to anything heretofore attempted there.—We should add to our hearsay notes on the Hereford Festival one line more, on competent testimony, in praise of Mrs. Enderssohn's singing: which was such as to justify our former most hopeful prophecies with regard to the place which she will at no distant day occupy among English *soprani*.

While the London musicians are making tours east, north and south, and the foreign instrumentalists rushing abroad to breathe a mouthful of Continental air betwixt the Provincial Festivals and the Promenade Concerts, an *Organophonic Band*, professing to be an orchestra without instruments,—that is, in which the effect of musical instruments is given by the human voice,—has been advertising its performances, with the view

of drawing to the *St. James's Theatre* the few who are still detained, or have just arrived, in town.

The fourth edition of 'Dubourg's Violin,' which has just appeared, would have claimed attention,—professing, as it does, to bring up the instrument and its professors to our own time,—had the promise of the profession been kept, or the inherent insufficiency of the work amended. But who could seriously sit down to examine or to annotate a work in which to Ernst's name are affixed a few lines of doggerel, merely to acquaint the reader that the writer has never heard Ernst play!—One or two more interesting contributions to musical literature may be shortly expected from foreign sources.—M. Berlioz is about to put forth a volume which might be called of French *Kreisleriana* (half artistic disquisition, half the wildest fantasy), to be entitled 'Soirées d'Orchestre.'—M. Fétis is preparing a treatise on Rhythm, which, if we may judge from the fragments that have appeared in the *Gazette Musicale*, contains a new idea.—M. Halévy has been charged to produce a series of musical articles for a new Encyclopedia, which, on the same authority, seems written to the point and with point.—Without vouching for the authenticity of the report, we may here mention that we have heard the parentage of the 'Musical Letters by one who is well known' [*ante*, p. 650] ascribed to that well-known musician and composer Herr Reissiger.—We learn from abroad that M. Oulibicheff, the Russian biographer and panegyrist of Mozart, is dead.

Among the news from Paris we hear of the preparation at the *Opéra Comique* of 'Les Noces de Jeannette,' a trifle, in one act, by the authors and composer of 'Galathée,'—and of a three-act work by MM. Scribe, Delavigne and Clapison.—Madame Cerito is about to become "a fixed star," if such a metaphor can be applied to a *danseuse* at the *Grand Opéra*. A new ballet, with music by M. Adam, is in preparation for her re-appearance.—M. Berlioz will shortly make a journey to the capital of German Romanticism—Weimar.—MM. Scribe and Meyerbeer have agreed, it is said, to re-write two entire acts of 'L'Africaine,' before that opera can be represented.—We ought by this time also, to be hearing of the cautious German master's completion of his trilogy 'The Eumenides.'

Herr Marschner has just exchanged his theatrical appointment at Hanover for one at Vienna. By this composer something good could even now be done for German Opera.—Mozart's 'Clemenza' has been revived at Berlin, with Mdlle. Wagner and Madame Herrenberger in the principal characters.

At the Theatre *San Carlo* at Naples, the *troupe* for the winter is to consist of Signora De Giuli, Signori Mirate, Ferri and Monari (no Pastas and Rubinis and Lablaches these!). The new opera by Signor Mercadante is to be entitled 'Violetta.'—There is an odd little movement now going on in the Church of Rome which need cause no alarm in the most Protestant of Protestants addicted to *sol-fa-ing*. This is an offer of two premiums of 60*l.* each for two new Masses, each accompanied by two Motets for the offertory. These Masses are to be composed within certain canonical limits,—one to have an integral, the other an optional organ accompaniment. The list of hints and recommendations to those who undertake the competition is nearly as long, and as uselessly precise, as those wonderful German official manuals for the instruction and governance of *schnell-post* and railway travellers which no one reads, and about as many persons respect! To ourselves, who recollect what the Romish Church did, so long, in encouragement and maintenance of Sacred Music, a poor little effort like the above curiously illustrates present decrepitude. The shades of Palestrina and Pope Marcellus must look on, we should fancy, with something like scorn at this advertisement for a Prize Mass, even when sanctioned by a Wiseman.

The cymbal and gong of American enthusiasm are already awake in behalf of Madame Sontag, who has just arrived at New York. The *Herald* of that city is flowery and gracious in her praises. While on board the *Arctic*, she assisted at a concert given for the benefit of the crew.—We must notice a terrible thing which happened at this

concert on board ship,—as described in the same journal.—

"In order to effect a variety in the entertainment, Miss Laura Keane kindly consented to recite Monk Lewis's 'Maniac.' No words are adequate to the task of giving a proper idea of the impression created by this masterly exhibition of talent. So intense was the agony of admiration at witnessing such an awful scene, that many could but believe that this excellent and charming young actress was bereft of all reason, and standing there in all the horror of a lost mind."

—The career of Madame Albani in "the States" seems to be less brilliant than had been anticipated.

MISCELLANEA

International Postage.—This important subject is making its way with steadiness and rapidity,—and the arguments of the London Association are beginning to be echoed from foreign lands. It will, we think, help a cause which involves good of many kinds, if we give a few examples of the spirit in which this question is viewed in countries that have not, like England and the United States, had any practical experience of its benefits.—The *Heraldo*, of Madrid, has a leading article on the subject,—advocating warmly the system of *pre-payment*:—but not that sort of "pre-payment" now existing between Spain and England, which franks the letter to the borders of the kingdom, leaving an exorbitant payment to be made for its conveyance into the interior of the country. It proposes the adoption of an *uniform stamp postage* on all letters going abroad. The writer declares it as his decided opinion that the amount accruing from the carriage of letters should not constitute public income, but should merely pay the actual expenses of the service. He lays great stress on the trouble and expense consequent on the unpaid system in the keeping of intricate accounts between nations,—which in the end, he says, must leave but little balance on either side, as generally speaking each letter has its answer, and the exceptions will be as numerous on the one side as on the other.—The *Courier and Enquirer* of New York has also an article on the same text; in which, after referring to the evidence of Mr. Rowland Hill to the effect that distance adds little to the cost of conveyance of letters—the writer says:—"The mere weight and bulk of a letter would occupy a hardly appreciable place in the scale of ordinary freight." "There are places within fifty miles of New York to which a letter cannot be sent with so little handling and at so little actual trouble and cost to the party conveying it, as if sent to Rio Janeiro, to St. Petersburg, to Cairo, to Hong Kong, or to Australia,—and yet while the postage in the former case is but 3 cents, in the latter it is 87, 44, 61, 65, and 73 cents respectively." "The new principle of low rates and many letters has utterly supplanted the old principle of high rates and few letters, wherever a trial has been made between the two,—and it must some time become universal to the whole post office system throughout the world."—Ireland adds her voice to those of our foreign neighbours. The *Dublin Advocate* has a long and able article on the subject; in which the great importance of the measure to that country is forcibly demonstrated. "It behoves Ireland," says the writer, "to stir in the matter, for she is the most deeply interested portion of the kingdom by the extent of her emigration. It was proved before the Packet Station Commissioners, that a very large proportion of the American mails were made up of Irish letters. Out of 76,509 letters despatched by packet from Liverpool to the United States of America and Canada, in December 1850, 28,018 were from Ireland. The greater portion of all those Irish letters were between emigrants settled abroad and their relations at home; just the very class to whom a high postage is the heaviest penalty." The writer argues that the best mode of inducing foreign nations to join us in establishing a cheap and uniform system of international postage would be the immediate application of it to our own colonies,—whither thousands of Germans, Americans and others are now hurrying.

Refripiration of Climate at the Poles.—In the report of the proceedings of the British Association contained in your last week's issue, appears one of a paper by Mr. H. Hennessey, charging the theory of Sir Charles Lyell with an incon-

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The Annual Revenue .. 210,000

And the Accumulated Fund .. 68,531

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